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Indian panel rejects  
Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Ind  
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lections in Kashmir by the  
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"unanimously rejected" the  
proposal by Prime Minister  
P.V. Narasimha Rao as the  
situation was "not consistent  
with the conduct of a fair and  
free election in Kashmir."

## Iraq opposed to 'current formula' of oil sale

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Friday it would not accept in its current form U.N. Security Council Resolution 986, which allows quarterly Iraqi oil sales of up to \$1 billion to buy food and medicine. Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra, however, did not state clearly whether Baghdad would accept a modified version of the resolution. "In its current formula, Resolution 986 is stillborn, it aims at exploiting the conditions created by the blockade in order to establish a geographical and political situation that will destroy Iraq's unity," Al Thawra said. "This is what our wise leadership has been opposing by all means, with the people's support," it said. The Security Council on Wednesday renewed the five-year-old sanctions against Iraq, imposed after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait. Egypt on Thursday called for "new discussions" between the United Nations and Iraq over Resolution 986 in order to reach an accord acceptable to both sides for its implementation.

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## Settlers oppose seizing of land

HALHOUL, occupied West Bank (R) — A small group of Jewish settlers joined Palestinian landowners on Friday to protest against Israeli government plans to destroy vineyards to build a road for Israelis in the West Bank, witnesses said. About 25 settlers from Kiryat Arba, Hebron and Efrat joined a similar number of Palestinian landowners from the southern West Bank town of Halhoul in a rare joint sit-down protest. Soldiers looked on but did not intervene. "We have a rabbinical opinion... that prohibits Jews from taking or stealing or destroying the lands of non-Jews," said Kiryat Arba settler David Ramati.

## EU refuses to budge on Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — The European Union (EU) is refusing to budge on its refusal to allow Libya to take part in the European-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona later this month, an Egyptian official said Friday after a visit to Paris. "The European Union is insisting that countries taking part in the meeting have cooperation links with it. Libya has no such ties," Rauf Ghoneim, foreign ministry official for European affairs, told journalists here.

## Bahraini opposition apologises to emir

MANAMA (R) — Bahraini newspapers said on Friday four opposition leaders had apologised to Emir Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa over their anti-government protests. "We express our deep regret with regard to our behaviour and acts which led to troubles in the country," the Shiite Muslim activists said in a letter to the emir. "We will work to restore calm, end violence and restore normal life... we make this initiative without any demand or conditions."

## Bonn puts off Islamic conference

BONN (R) — Germany on Friday put off an Islamic conference planned for next week after parliament unexpectedly passed a vote saying Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati should be excluded. Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Parliament voted to exclude Mr. Velayati because Tehran had welcomed the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

## 16 held in Lebanon for 'collaboration'

BEIRUT (AP) — Sixteen people have been arrested on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, a charge punishable by death in this country which is technically still at war with the Jewish state.

Judge Nasri Lahoud, the government's magistrate at the military tribunal, ordered the suspects placed in custody pending the completion of interrogation. The identities of most detainees were not disclosed. But they were all believed to be Lebanese. They are suspected of "spying for the enemy" — holding contacts with Israel's intelligence services and passing on military information. Some also are suspected of smuggling drugs to Israel or involvement in trade deals which violate the Arab boycott rules.

It's not definite, but it's possible," spokesman Marwan Kanafani said, when asked about a meeting. "For the moment, it's not confirmed."

It would be the first time Mr. Peres met Mr. Arafat since he became Israel's new leader after the Nov. 4 assassination of his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish fanatic.

Mr. Arafat is to chair a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee in the Egyptian capital on Sunday.

Mr. Peres assured the Palestinian leader by telephone on Wednesday that Israel's troop redeployment outside six West Bank towns, to be completed by the end of the year, would go ahead as planned despite Mr. Rabin's murder.

An initial contingent of 1,000 Palestinian policemen is to arrive Monday in Jenin.

# Government to comply with King's directives through constitutional process — prime minister

*Aim is to protect democracy from excesses and executive authority will work closely with legislature on measures, Sharif Zeid says after HM's hard-hitting comments on the media and professional associations*

By P.V. Vivekanand and Natasha Bukhari

AMMAN — The prime minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, said Friday that his government would adopt necessary measures to protect Jordan's national unity and cohesiveness but that any step in this regard would be taken in accordance with the country's constitutional process.

"His Majesty King Hussein issued specific directions (in his speech to senior army and security officers Thursday) which the government will comply with," Sharif Zeid told the Jordan Times. "However, the government will not issue any emergency or temporary laws to achieve His Majesty's objectives," the prime minister added. "Any change in laws

will be effected only in cooperation with Parliament."

In his address, broadcast on national radio and television, King Hussein expressed anger over the tactics adopted by the country's hardliners who oppose the peace agreement with Israel and those who rejoiced at the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The King strongly reiterated his vow that anyone "who seeks to destroy national unity" would be his "foe forever."

The King also assailed the local media, state-owned as well as privately-run, for not living up to the challenges of the day and said journalists critical of the peace process

were demolishing people, propagating defeatism and sowing dissension which harmed national unity.

"I do not feel that there is

official level or the media in general, that belongs to this country, defending it or defending its achievements, reflecting the bright image of this country," he said.

(Continued on page 7)

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said the King had given "clear directives which the government will comply with." (story above).

The government has the right to introduce the legislative changes through an extraordinary draft law when Parliament is in recess. But Sharif Zeid ruled out such a step saying that any legal changes will be introduced in cooperation with parliament.

The criticism that the King levelled at the media in his address Thursday was the strongest in a series of remarks that he had made over the past two years about what he described as the unsatisfactory performance of both the official and privately owned media.

"Controls and curbs must be introduced and (punishment) for those who violate public ethics and morals (in the press) should be reconsidered," said the King in his address to senior military and security officials.

The changes would be the first to be introduced to the Press and Publication Law since it was endorsed by the 11th Parliament in 1993. Observers believe that the government will have no trouble in passing the

(Continued on page 2)

## Expected amendments to Press and Publications Law target 'yellow press'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The impending changes that the government is expected to introduce to the Press and Publication Law will enable the executive authority to take stronger measures against publications which His Majesty King Hussein accused Thursday of working to harm the country and undermine its stability.

The reported amendments, which are expected to be presented to Parliament when it reconvenes in December, would empower the government with the authority to close down temporarily or permanently newspapers that violate the law or step on the "red lines" which the Constitution and the National Charter have drawn.

The changes would be the first to be introduced to the Press and Publication Law since it was endorsed by the 11th Parliament in 1993. Observers believe that the government will have no trouble in passing the

amendments through the Lower House of Parliament where a majority supports the government's policies.

The current law metes out mostly financial punishment to newspapers and journalists who violate its provisions. But it also allows for the trial of those who commit certain types of violations such as attacking the security forces or the defamation of the royal family under the penalty code which imposes punishment that could include imprisonment.

"Controls and curbs must be introduced and (punishment) for those who violate public ethics and morals (in the press) should be reconsidered," said the King in his address to senior military and security officials.

"It seems that our hopes were bigger than our reality when we abolished limits and made the strongest punishment for any wrongdoer a mere JD 1000," said the King in his address.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said the King had given "clear directives which the government will comply with." (story above).

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(Continued on page 2)

## Peres and Arafat may meet Sunday

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat may meet with Israel's acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres in Cairo on Sunday, Mr. Arafat's spokesman said Friday.

They are suspected of "spying for the enemy" — holding contacts with Israel's intelligence services and passing on military information. Some also are suspected of smuggling drugs to Israel or involvement in trade deals which violate the Arab boycott rules.

It would be the first time Mr. Peres met Mr. Arafat since he became Israel's new leader after the Nov. 4 assassination of his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish fanatic.

Mr. Arafat is to chair a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee in the Egyptian capital on Sunday.

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An initial contingent of 1,000 Palestinian policemen is to arrive Monday in Jenin.

## Rifkind reaffirms support for peace

AMMAN (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on Friday stressed his country's support for the Middle East peace process and outlined the importance of pursuing efforts to enhance and build regional peace and stability.

Speaking to reporters at the British ambassador's residence, Mr. Rifkind praised Jordan's leading role in establishing peace in the region and in turning this peace into reality.

He said he discussed with His Majesty King Hussein the situation in Iraq, Jordanian-British relations and the economic and commercial ties between Jordan and Europe, in addition to Jordan's participation in this month's Barcelona conference.

Mr. Rifkind also said U.N. sanctions on Iraq could re-

## Sixth suspect held in Rabin murder

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A court remanded a sixth suspected Jewish plotter in Yitzhak Rabin's murder on Friday as supporters of an extremist rabbi planned to defy a police ban and rally on the day of the prime minister's memorial.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said that one man was arrested Thursday for condoning Mr. Rabin's assassination on television. The man, identified as 44-year-old David Balahsan, was remanded for seven days in a magistrate's court near Tel Aviv.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal insisted the murder was the work of a Jewish terrorist group which had tried before to kill the premier and blow up his peace accords with the Palestinians.

The inquiry taking place has revealed at least three attempts to assassinate Rabin since the launch of Palestinian autonomy in May 1994," he told journalists.

"All I can say is that the assassin, Yigal Amir, is not the only one implicated in these attempts," Mr. Shahal said.

But the Shin Bet intelligence service, under attack for having been caught off its

guard, has voiced doubts on the conspiracy theory first raised by Mr. Shahal the previous day.

A senior official told Israel Radio that so far the police investigation had only proved the involvement of two people: Amir, 27, and his brother Hagai who confessed to preparing the lethal dum-dum bullets used.

Vigil Amir has said killing Mr. Rabin was his "sacred duty" but told a court on Monday he acted alone.

The latest suspect to be detained, 23-year-old Michael Epstein, was remanded for five days on suspicion of conspiracy and knowing in advance of the assassination last Saturday at a Tel Aviv rally.

A total of six people are in custody for the murder including the assassin, who has been linked to Eyal, an offshoot of the outlawed Kach movement headed by the slain Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The six suspects now in custody include the two Amir brothers, Eyal leader Avi Shaviv, Dror Adeni, Osh Skornick and Epstein.

Supporters of the extremist rabbi have called for a memorial service on the same day as a Tel Aviv rally for Rabin.

In Jerusalem, a state com-

## U.S. Senate approves Palestinian aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate has given final congressional approval to a bill resuming U.S. aid to Palestinians through Dec. 31. Senate delays in approving the legislation led to a temporary cessation of activities at the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Washington office last week. Approval by voice vote sent the bill to President Bill Clinton. New legislation would be required for further extension into next year. Aid to the Palestinians enjoys bipartisan support. But Senate majority leader Bob Dole and Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms allowed the old authorisation to expire in a dispute with the Clinton administration over reorganising the state Department and other agencies that handle foreign issues. The State Department had complained that the Senate Republicans' tactics of Mr. Dole and Mr. Helms amounted to holding the Middle East peace process hostage to a flap over reducing the foreign affairs bureaucracy. The United States is committed to providing \$500 million in assistance to the Palestinians over five years. The administration considers the aid to be a critical element of the Middle East peace negotiations.

## Sultan Qaboos aims at tribal support with general pardon

MUSCAT (AFP) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman, who is set to release hundreds of militants at the end of the month, is seeking to bolster his support from the country's tribes, diplomats said.

"Qaboos decided to release those fundamentalists to hold out his hand to the tribes, especially in the south, who have got a certain political influence and power," a Western diplomat said here.

"These Omanis, most of them students and intellectuals, come from all social classes throughout the country," an Arab diplomat added.

"Qaboos needs the support of around 200 tribes scattered throughout the country," all the more so because Oman has for the last year taken part in direct talks with Israel, he added.

Oman and Qatar are the only Gulf Arab states to have taken concrete steps towards rapprochement with the Jewish state.

Authorities said on Sunday that the Sultan had declared a general amnesty for all prisoners implicated in outlawed activities and organisations and that they would be freed by the end of November.

The state security court in November last year banded

down prison terms to an unspecified number of militants convicted of sedition, undermining social unity, and exploiting the Muslim religion for destructive purposes.

Another diplomat said around 200 to 600 Omanis, who were arrested in three waves between May and August 1994 and who were mainly from the country's south, benefited from this unprecedented amnesty.

"We cannot call them Islamists. They are puritans who are fighting against what they call corruption and misuse of authority," the diplomat said.

"They do not represent any major threat for the regime," he added. "They don't have the means of action to threaten the authorities." That's why they will be released. There's no risk," he said.

Following the arrests, the Omani authorities accused foreign parties of having financed the militant groups, the first ever dismantled in Oman.

The London-based human rights organisation, Amnesty International, said in a recent report that the fundamentalists had been charged with creating an illegal organisation and distributing pam-



Sultan Qaboos

phlets denouncing Oman for staging a conference that Israel attended.

An Omani official confirmed Amnesty reports that those arrested included a former Omani ambassador to the United States, senior officials from the agriculture and commerce ministries and executives of the state oil firm.

The official who asked not to be named added that the general amnesty was perceived by several Omanis as the "prelude to a real change at all levels as part of efforts to bolster national unity."

Meanwhile, Western diplomats here said they expected cabinet changes after festivities for national day on Nov. 18, although key posts would probably not change hands.

Oman, a country of 500,000 people, is an absolute monarchy, although in late 1991 a consultative assembly was formed, with its 59 members appointed by the Sultan from among representatives of Oman's 59 provinces.

### Sixth suspect

(Continued from page 1)

"alone," said Erez Friedman, a parliamentary assistant to a member of Mr. Peres's Labour Party.

"We won't let the rightist demonstrators call you a traitor or a killer," he said, citing some of the accusations flung at Mr. Rabin for months before his death.

"We made that mistake once. Leah Rabin said 'where were you.' We heard what she said. We take the criticism and from now on we promise we will be here. We will not make the same mistake again," Mr. Friedman added.

Thousands of people continued to gather at Rabin's grave in the Mount Herzl military cemetery, still numb with grief and shock after his assassination.

"What he did not know, or would not believe, was that terror and murder were not the exclusive domain of the Palestinians," wrote the editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem Report, Hirsh Goodman.

Even political barriers seem to have been swept aside as if by magic.

Posters and bumper stickers calling Mr. Rabin a "traitor" or "assassin" have disappeared, replaced with ones bidding "Goodbye, friend" and "Forgive us for not backing you."

"The State of Israel will never be the same," said Shimon Shves, the former head of Mr. Rabin's office, and a close friend.

The assassination has also redrawn the political map of Israel, at least temporarily.

## Euro-Arab forum calls for basic change in approach to education

From Lola Kelaini in the Hague

A GATHERING of European and Arab experts on education is calling on Middle Eastern countries to upgrade their educational systems and on the European Union (EU) to support the educational reform programme in the region on a priority basis, given the fast-moving changes in the world economic climate towards open market economies that require a qualitative change of education and vocational training.

The recommendations, adopted at the conclusion of the sixth dialogue forum organised by the Luftia Rabbani Foundation in the Hague, will be submitted to the Barcelona conference of "Euro-Mediterranean partnership" grouping the 15 EU member states and 13 non-EU Mediterranean countries, including Jordan.

"With stability in the

changes in state approaches to education.

They call on the European Union to fund Euro-Arab workshops, encourage studies of the regulatory and legislative framework and to transfer know-how.

It also recommended that special "Euro-Arab" centres be set up in the Middle East for training of teachers and reforming the approach to education.

The dialogue forum, focusing on what it called a "new globalisation strategy," noted that the international community has to come terms with the emerging world trend towards accepting the new strategy.

"With stability in the Middle East and the trend towards achieving a free Euro-Mediterranean trade area by the year 2010, networking among European and Arab industries should be encouraged in hosting selected trainees and trainees from Arab countries for short programmes in European industries," the recommendations said.

Representing Jordan at the meeting were Thabet Tabet, a former minister of energy and mineral resources, Munther Masri, president of the National Centre for Human Resources, Imam Al Mufti, president of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Victor Billeh, an advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a senior official of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

The recommendations call for higher priority for basic education, continued updating of basic education curricula and teaching methods and material, introducing effective research and analysis methods, upgrading training for teachers, developing education management information systems, establishing monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of education and introducing policy

Tunisia, Oman and Qatar, said the recommendations were not aimed at copying and imitating the European educational system since the features and peculiarities of the Arab World differed vastly from those of Europe. At the same time, they stressed the importance of enhancing cultural understanding between the Arab World and Europe.

Adnan Badran, deputy director-general for science at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said that with the international strategy of globalisation and borderless regional blocs the Middle East would find itself excluded unless measures are taken to decrease the gap between education and information between the region and the rest of the world.

If we want to have a part in the competitive market, the young generation should have access to good education," Dr. Badran told the forum.

He emphasised that the development of human rights, democracy and political system depended on the quality of education.

The Luftia Rabbani Foundation is named after a Palestinian woman, one of the tens of thousands who lost everything when the state of Israel was created in mandate Palestine in 1948.

Established in 1967, the foundation aims at promoting "mutual understanding between Europe and the Arab World through cultural and educational exchange."

## Government to comply with King's directives

(Continued from page 1)

In an implicit call for changes in the government's approach to the media, the King said: "It is imperative to provide limitations and deterrents and to reconsider our policies towards (spoilers), because this obviously is not the standard we wished for our press in the age of democracy."

Democracy does not mean crossing the red lines, destroying national unity, destroying what is worth something and underestimating the achievements of this country," said the King. The King also lashed out at professional unions whose executive councils are dominated by Islamists and leftists who have threatened punitive measures, including expulsion, against any of their members who deal with Israel or Israelis. Some professionals have already been expelled from their respective associations for such contacts.

The laws governing the professional unions state that anyone who wishes to practise his or her profession has to be a member of the relevant professional union and a suspension of membership would also mean that he or she could not continue to practise the profession.

"Do they (the professional associations) represent the thousands of this country's youth?" said the King. "Do they serve the interests of their professions (and professionals)? Until when will this crooked situation persist? Where is the difference between politics and professionalism?"

The King warned profes-

sional unions and associations to "stay away from politics and leave (politicising) to politicians and members of parliament who are freely elected by the people."

In a meeting with the press in July, Sharif Zeid said the government was considering amendments to the laws on professional unions that would do away with the mandatory membership in associations for any professional.

Directing certain remarks to the prime minister in his speech on Thursday, the King asked the government to "ask my brothers (members) of the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution or any concerned party or take measures through dialogue (concerning) what should be done at the levels of the government, people (and parliament) to be fair to this country."

One official described the approach of the tabloids as "verbal violence which could turn into physical violence."

According to a government source, "one way to counter that would be to bring down the threshold of punishment for violators of the law." One such measure could be a dramatic increase in fines imposed on those who are convicted of violating the Press and Publications Law (see stories below).

The King's hard-hitting speech obviously stemmed from frustration over what many government officials describe as the immaturity of the local media and professional associations to recognise the inevitability of accepting the course of history and realities on the ground.

"It seems that our hopes were not (compatible) with the size of reality when we lifted all restrictions," said the King, referring to the maximum penalty of JD 1,000 for violations of the Press and Publications Law.

Sharif Zeid told the Jordan Times on Friday: "We are determined to protect our democratic march and achievements. We will not allow anyone to abuse democratic freedoms to destroy the national fabric of society and democracy itself. We will continue to protect our accomplishments and our people's interests within the country's framework."

The prime minister did not say whether the government would introduce amendments

to the Press and Publications Law or that the professional associations when Parliament resumes its regular session in December. But government sources said that such legislative changes are being strongly considered as a way of stemming what is increasingly being viewed as incitement by especially the tabloid and political party press against the peace treaty with Israel.

One official described the approach of the tabloids as "verbal violence which could turn into physical violence."

According to a government source, "one way to counter that would be to bring down the threshold of punishment for violators of the law." One such measure could be a dramatic increase in fines imposed on those who are convicted of violating the Press and Publications Law (see stories below).

The King hit back: "We are not honoured to shake their hands because they see only their interest, believe in nothing but themselves and work only for themselves...because they are too cowardly to shoulder their responsibilities and to work in the service of the (Arab) Nation's future to save Arab people everywhere from what they suffer."

The King, who has survived numerous attempts against his life, said he did not fear assassination. "When my time comes, I hope it will be like that of Abdullah Ben Al Hussein," said the King, referring to his grandfather who was assassinated in July 1951 at the entrance to the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

"Life and death are in the hands of God and we do not fear criticism when we do justice," said the King. "I would always be to the last moment of my life, there for you, from you and with you, to satisfy you with my conscience and work for God's will...."

That was seen as an explicit call on the executive authority to propose amendments to laws concerning the work and mandate of the professional unions and associations as well as the Press and Publications Law.

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The King, who has survived

in Tel Aviv on Nov. 4 and warned that a similar atmosphere was clouding Jordan.

"I remind my brothers, and my brother the prime minister, that if such an atmosphere led to what happened there (in Israel), we live amid the same atmosphere here," said the King.

The King also lashed out at a "neighboring Arab country" — thought to be Syria — whose "vice-president" had sent a message to the Jordanian prime minister saying that "you were my friend, but it's not honourable to shake the hand that shook Rabin's hand."

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Such publications drew criticism, mainly from officials, but also by other quarters, for sacrificing professionalism at the altar of sensationalism, commercialism and propaganda for certain ideologies and political beliefs.

King Hussein had spoken of certain elements in the press that "do not belong to this country." While in earlier speeches he mainly gave advice for such papers and journalists to work for the interest of the Kingdom, the King on Thursday explicitly instructed the government not to tolerate the current situation and do something about it.

Sharif Zeid had also said that some journalists were on the payroll of foreign countries but added that legal action could not be taken against them because it was

hard to prove these charges in a court of law.

Weekly tabloids and some political party newspapers, which appeared on the newsstands after the current press law lifted restrictions on the publication of new newspapers and magazines, have run more confrontational stories against the policies of the state, especially after the signing of the peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

Such publications drew criticism, mainly from officials, but also by other quarters, for sacrificing professionalism at the altar of sensationalism, commercialism and propaganda for certain ideologies and political beliefs.

It has become usual for

such publications to publish sensational headlines for news stories that they fail to substantiate.

In expressing their opposition to the peace treaty with Israel, observers say, some of

those papers not only presented views as news, but they offered these views to the readers in ways, when the officials said, could sow the

seeds of conflict in society.

In handling sensitive issues such as .. peace with Israel, ties with Palestinians and other Arab states, these papers have failed to uphold professional standards in seeking accuracy and truth, spreading unrealistic fears among the people, officials say.

The King said that these publications were harming the interests of the state and are preaching division in society.

His message on Thursday was a clear warning

that he would no longer tolerate such practices and that the state had the means to ensure its security and stability.

The prompt response by

the government by working to introduce legislative changes that would strengthen its hand in dealing with those publications is a strong indication that it is going to use those means.

But some journalists say

that the legislative changes that the government is expected to introduce should not allow for reinstating the right to shut down publications for violating the law.

At the same time, unions

should not have the power to

## Amendments to target 'yellow press'

(Continued from page 1)

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The King



Oman and Qatar recommendations aimed at copying the occupational system of the Arab World. At the same time, stressed the in enhancing Amman Friday were overwhelmed by the "large number" of Jordanians who visited the residence of Ambassador Shimon Shamir to convey their condolences on the death of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Badran, deputy general for science and Scientific, and organisation, said that with the national strategy of and border, places the Middle East and find itself less measures are decrease the gap between the rest of the want to have competitive young generation access to good Dr. Badran emphasised that the extent of human democracy and politics depended on education. Rabbani is named after a woman, one of thousands who, when the Israel was created Palestine in 1948.

in 1967, the aims at promoting mutual understanding Europe and through cultural educational et journalists for legislative inst. at enable Authority to do papers could not be used again that do not of the laws that have warned amend the constitution Law.

they said, on democratic process guaranteed respect through other measures such as heavy fines that disrupt ethics, mislead or publish false information about the government.

of the press, it is to bring the police in government for accuracy which will win the credibility of journalists and the public through the media.

Iran seized killing one of its citizens IRNA said in two operations against traffickers among 13 others, an assault in London (2)

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By Jennifer Hamarneh and Beatrix Immenkamp

lawyers, doctors and journalists, who, by visiting the ambassador's residence, were defying their associations' rules to avoid contact with Israelis, or face the threat of disciplinary measures being taken against them.

Mrs. Shamir said she was particularly moved by the number of university students who came to sign the condolences book.

Syndic Shlein-Michael, second secretary for the commercial department at the embassy, said a carload of students drove to the residence and "perhaps wondering whether security would allow them in," elected one of the group to attempt to get into the residence. When he succeeded, five others followed him, she said.

Ms. Shlein-Michael also said another student, who came on his own, stood in the receiving room and gave a short speech about the importance of pursuing the peace process.

"We so often blame the young generation for not caring, for being self-centred. But on both sides, in Israel and in Jordan, young people really made an appearance," she said.

It is the sincere and heart-felt expression of grief, shock and sorrow by so many ordinary people that shows that this is a peace among two peoples, not between two governments, as has often been claimed, said Mr. Turgeman.

According to Mr. Turgeman, many young visitors, in their late teens and early twenties, spoke of their admiration for the Israeli premier, who, they said, had set out to build a better future for them in the region — a sentiment expressed in the same words by many young Israelis, he added.

Thus, he said, the young generation in both countries is united by the sentiment that the late prime minister, alongside King Hussein, was leading them on a path of hope.

Visitors had travelled to the ambassador's residence in Abdoun from places as far away as Ramtha, Irbid, Azraq, Um Qais, Karak, Ajloun and villages in the south, many spending hours on a bus in order to do what some referred to as "their duty" of offering their condolences, Mr. Turgeman said.

"We were shown that we have real friends in Jordan; the way people stood by us in this sad moment, the deeply-felt sorrow they were expressing. The people of Jordan came to express to the people of Israel that we are living in a state of peace," he said.

10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The first of hundreds of faxes and telegrams carrying messages of condolence reached the embassy only hours after the news of the assassination was reported Saturday night.

The ambassador and his wife continued to receive visitors at their residence until Tuesday afternoon.

But according to Ms. Shlein-Michael, people were still paying respect at the embassy itself on Wednesday and Thursday, upon finding the residence closed. Some of them said that they had been unable to come earlier or that they had been out of town, she said.

She added that cables and other written messages continued to stream into the embassy.

"We are trying to respond in writing to as many as we can," Ms. Shlein-Michael said.

By Tuesday morning, the book of condolences at the residence was so filled with messages of sympathy and words of peace that a new book had to be opened, Ms. Shlein-Michael said. "A second book has also been filled," she said.

According to Mr. Turgeman, many young visitors, in their late teens and early twenties, spoke of their admiration for the Israeli premier, who, they said, had set out to build a better future for them in the region — a sentiment expressed in the same words by many young Israelis, he added.

Many Jordanian visitors pointed to the unique relationship the late Mr. Rabin had with King Hussein, a relationship of friendship, of mutual respect and understanding.

And they spoke as if to say "The friend of my King is my friend," he said.

Visitors had travelled to the ambassador's residence in Abdoun from places as far away as Ramtha, Irbid, Azraq, Um Qais, Karak, Ajloun and villages in the south, many spending hours on a bus in order to do what some referred to as "their duty" of offering their condolences, Mr. Turgeman said.

"We were shown that we have real friends in Jordan; the way people stood by us in this sad moment, the deeply-felt sorrow they were expressing. The people of Jordan came to express to the people of Israel that we are living in a state of peace," he said.

## Bahrain-Jordan energy cooperation to start immediately, says official

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement signed by Bahrain and Jordan Thursday on cooperation in energy generation, distribution and maintenance and the exchange of expertise will take immediate effect, according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohamad Saeed Arafah.

Mr. Arafah who took part in the talks between teams from the two countries and attended the signing of the memorandum of understanding covering future cooperation, said Friday the Bahraini side promised to

send Jordan fully approved documents on such cooperation within days of their return to Manama.

The Bahraini delegation, which left Amman Thursday, agreed to launch full-scale cooperation with the JEA in the exchange of expertise, designing and operating electric power networks, developing national electricity systems training personnel, the use of alternative sources of energy and management of electricity installations.

The memorandum also provides for joint studies and consultations between

the concerned authorities in power related affairs, the rationalisation of electricity consumption, the use of gas turbines at power stations, the use of solar and wind energy and desalination plants and cooperation in seminars and conferences dealing with electric and other forms of energy.

The two sides agreed to hold talks on secondment of experts from either country to the other and to conduct joint negotiations with financial institutions to secure funds and loans to finance power projects.

The memorandum was

signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh and Bahraini Minister of Electricity and Water Abdullah Jumaa.

Mr. Jumaa and Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irshaidat signed a separate memorandum of understanding on bilateral cooperation in improving water resources management, protection of water resources from pollution and personnel training.

Dr. Irshaidat said a Bahraini technical team will visit Jordan soon to inspect the country's irrigation systems.

## Business sector urges Egypt to import more Jordanian goods

CAIRO (J.T.) — A Jordanian business delegation which held meetings with the Egyptian business community in Cairo has raised the question of the balance of trade between the two countries being in favour of Egypt by some JD 25 million over the past few years.

The deficit trend in the balance of trade first appeared in 1990 when it stood at JD 8.8 million, rising gradually until 1994 when it showed an imbalance of JD 24.2 million, said Mr. Budeir.

Isam Budeir, one of the 50-member delegation, told the opening meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Business Council, which groups

representatives of the business communities of both countries, that the balance of trade was in favour of Egypt by some JD 25 million over the past few years.

The deficit trend in the balance of trade first appeared in 1990 when it stood at JD 8.8 million, rising gradually until 1994 when it showed an imbalance of JD 24.2 million, said Mr. Budeir.

He added that trade indicators in the first seven months of 1995 point to an

even higher margin of deficit.

The continuation of this deficit between the two countries requires immediate attention from the joint council, said Mr. Budeir.

He said this can be done through pumping new kinds of Jordanian products into the Egyptian market and encouraging Egyptian public and private organisations to increase their imports of Jordanian goods.

This can be backed later by involving the two coun-

tries' business communities in joint projects in tourism, industry, transport and construction fields, added Mr. Budeir.

The delegation, which returned to Amman Friday afternoon, discussed regional cooperation, the outcome of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit held in Amman in late October, and joint ventures in trade and industry in the coming stage during the three-day meeting, according to the Jordanian

Businessmen Association (JBA) whose chairman Hamdi Tabbaa led the Jordanian delegation to the meeting.

Under a trade agreement signed by Amman and Cairo, the two countries can exchange up to \$200 million worth of goods annually equally divided between the two sides.

The Cairo gathering was the sixth by the joint business council which was established in 1985.

## Women's legal advice centres in Arab World to review experiences

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of 100 women representing legal advice centres in 10 Arab countries, including Jordan, will participate in a seminar Saturday to exchange views, experiences and difficulties encountered by their centres.

"We are aiming to come up with better strategies to aid women in all sorts of legal and psychological advice, and we are hoping that this meeting will be the instigator to organise similar meetings in the future," Sawsan Ishaq, a volunteer lawyer and a member at the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) legal advice centre, said.

According to Ms. Ishaq, these cases proved that there is an urgent need for a women's shelter in the Kingdom.

"In several cases we encountered some women who had no place to go because they were either kicked out of their homes or were being mistreated by their families, which indicates that there is a pressing need for a women's shelter," Ms. Ishaq told the Jordanian Times in a recent interview.

Speaking of the Jordanian experience, Ms. Ishaq, who

is in charge of receiving women seeking legal advice at the JWU's headquarters in Jabal Hussein, said that most women come to the centre complaining they are victims of domestic violence. She added that many women come in with questions about their rights within marriage, inheritance issues, and child custody rights.

"We sought to help all these women and directed about 35 women to the concerned authorities depending on the individual case since the centre was established in early 1995," she said.

According to Ms. Ishaq, these cases proved that there is an urgent need for a women's shelter in the Kingdom.

"In several cases we encountered some women who had no place to go because they were either kicked out of their homes or were being mistreated by their families, which indicates that there is a pressing need for a women's shelter," Ms. Ishaq told the Jordanian Times in a recent interview.

The seminar will be followed by a two-day workshop, entitled "What's after Beijing" at which the JWU members who participated in the U.N. World Conference on Women last Sep-

tember will evaluate their participation and exchange their experiences with other non-governmental organisations (NGO).

"We are hoping to form pressure groups that would call on the government to apply the Beijing resolutions which were signed by Jordan following the conclusion of the conference," she added.

### JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT

#### FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JS/01/95 FOR 400KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA

Jordan Electricity Authority declares that they have secured a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing the 400kv electrical interconnection project with the Syrian Network. Jordan Electricity Authority intends to use part of this loan for financing of the Tender No. JS/01/95 for the supply and installation of the following 400kv Overhead Transmission Lines:

1- The 400kv single circuit overhead transmission line of a total length of about 80km from the Syrian border to the location of Amman North Substation.

2- The 400kv Double circuit overhead transmission line of a total length of about 40km from the location of Amman North S/SN to the location of Amman South S/SN.

The Tender includes the following options:

1- Supply of Steel Towers: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the steel towers for the two mentioned lines. The design and manufacturing drawings of the double circuit towers will be provided to the successful tenderer.

2- Conductors and Earthwires: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the phase conductors and the earthwires.

3- Optical Fibre Ground Wires (OPGW): Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the optical fibre ground wires.

4- Insulators and Fittings: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of insulator strings and fittings for the phase conductors and stranded steel earthwires.

5- Erection: Receiving of all necessary material for the 400kv transmission lines, transport and erection of the complete lines including the towers, insulator strings, conductors, earthwires, OPGW and fittings.

6- Turnkey: Design, manufacture, testing, delivery, insurance and erection of all needed 400kv transmission lines materials.

Tenderers who are interested to participate in any of the tender can obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Department in Jordan Electricity Authority main offices located between the 6th and the 7th circles- Jabal Amman starting from Saturday 11/11/95 onwards against a nonrefundable amount of USD 1000 or equivalent in Jordan Dinars in favour of Jordan Electricity Authority for each set of tender documents and submission of a purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment.

The purchase order should clearly include the Bidder's name, his local agent and address, telex, fax and telephone number.

Bids are to be submitted to the Secretary of Tendering Committee at the above address not later than 12:00 noon Amman time on Saturday 10/2/96 accompanied with a bid bond in the amount given in the tender documents.

**Jordan Times**

**Tel: 684311**

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

\* A service of Remembrance at the Church of the Redeemer at 6.00pm.

#### POETRY RECITAL

\* Recital of poems by poets of the '90s at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6.00pm.

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* Works by Iraqi Artist Ismail Fattah at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh

\* Works by Alram Abdel Jaber at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman

\* Works by Dodi Taba'a entitled "Variations Graphiques 93-95" at the French Cultural Centre.

\* Metal works by Ammar Khammash at Liwan, off Wadi Saqra Street. Also displaying all kinds of handicrafts. (Tel 699141)

\* Works by Nazih Abu Afesh at Balka Art Gallery, Fuheis.

\* A retrospective of works by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun.

#### JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT

#### FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JS/02/95 FOR 400KV SWITCHGEAR, REACTORS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT FOR AMMAN NORTH SUBSTATION ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA

Jordan Electricity Authority declares that they have secured a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing the 400kv electrical interconnection project with the Syrian Network.

Jordan Electricity Authority intends to use part of this loan for financing of the Tender No. JS/02

## Angry Major tells Commonwealth summit partners they are wrong

AUCKLAND (R) — Prime Minister John Major angrily described the other 51 Commonwealth countries as "just plain wrong" Friday as Britain was left most isolated in its support of French nuclear testing.

Mr. Major made no attempt to conceal his fury at a Commonwealth statement saying the overwhelming majority of governments condemned nuclear tests and urged an immediate halt to them.

"I think that what they have got in their statement is factually inaccurate, intellectually inconsistent and unbalanced and I haven't signed up for that and they know it," he said.

"I've made it perfectly clear: I think the view that has been expressed by our Commonwealth colleagues is just plain wrong — just plain wrong," Mr. Major told reporters at the end of the summit's first day of talks.

Britain's isolation evoked memories of Common-

wealth summits of the 1980s when Margaret Thatcher found herself in a minority of one in her opposition to sanctions against South Africa.

"If it is once again one against 48, then I am very sorry for the 48," Mrs. Thatcher said in Kuala Lumpur in 1989.

The joint leaders' statement noted "The widespread anger caused by the current programmes of nuclear weapons tests" and was chiefly directed at France, although it mentioned no country by name.

Mr. Major had made clear beforehand that he would not subscribe to criticism of Paris, which is half-way through an expected series of six nuclear tests in French Polynesia in the South Pacific.

The statement said the continuing tests flew in the face of pledges by the nuclear powers to show "utmost restraint" so as not to jeopardise prospects for a comprehensive test ban

treaty.

New Zealand and Australia, the two most vocal opponents of French testing, proclaimed their satisfaction.

Despite the acrimony, the statement cleared the way for leaders to turn their attention to the other main issue on the conference agenda: Nigeria.

Officials said they would weigh their response to Nigerian death sentences on nine minority rights activists during a weekend retreat in the South Island resort of Queenstown.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi said his country refused to be put in the dock. He accused the world's press of distorting the case of condemned writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight associates, saying they were guilty of "gruesome murder."

"We are not coming here for an inquisition," said Mr. Ikimi.

"There should be understanding and discussion, not

persecution of a country because it does not have the advantage of powerful media that some other countries have."

Leaders of the 52-nation Commonwealth, debating ways to give teeth to a 1991 declaration on democracy and good government, are under pressure to match words with deeds on Nigeria.

"The death sentence of Kenen Saro-Wiwa is an example of the type of behaviour we all want to see abolished," Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien told the summit's opening ceremony.

The United States and European Union are among leaders of a chorus of condemnation of Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and a major oil producer. It has been under military rule since 1993 elections were annulled and strongman General Sani Abacha seized power.

## Pakistani Islamic party stages rally, vows mobilisation against government

LAHORE (AFP) — Pakistan's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-I-Islami, wound up a successfully three-day rally here Friday with a vow to launch a campaign of mass mobilisation against the government.

Tens of thousands people from all over Pakistan attended the rally in the central Pakistani city of Lahore from Wednesday to Friday. Islamic leaders repeatedly criticised the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the main opposition, the Pakistan Muslim League, for "failing the people."

"We want to break out of this rut of a two-party regime," Jamaat Senator Khurshid Ahmad told AFP. "We want to give the people another option."

the mass turnout at the

rally comes at a time when Islamic parties were generally considered to be losing ground in Pakistan.

Sen. Ahmad said his party would capitalise on its apparent success and push for a three-point agenda, focusing on establishing Islam as the national identity, unifying the Muslim community and getting rid of "corrupt leadership."

Lahore's rally was clearly a show of strength, and Jamaat leaders made it clear that they would encourage protest at all levels in the country.

Speakers at the rally criticised Western powers for their "interference" in the Islamic World, saying the new world order was another form of colonialism. They called on the Muslim world to unite on issues

ranging from Kashmir to Bosnia.

The Jamaat rally was attended by representatives of several Western and Islamic countries including Egypt, Sudan, Kuwait, Iran, Turkey, Bosnia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Chechenya, Germany, France, Norway and Sweden. Sen. Ahmad said.

The Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was represented by an Algerian delegate from Europe, according to Sen. Ahmad, but no journalist met him.

"The Islamic Internationale is already in place" said Sen. Ahmad. Who stressed that informal links have always existed between the Islamic groups, without any formal institution.

## Departing PR chief blasts U.K. ruling party

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major, reeling from a parliamentary defeat on rules to curb political sleaze, suffered a new blow Thursday when his departing press chief attacked the ruling party's "sieve mentality".

Hugh Colver, a former journalist and head of press relations at the Ministry of Defence, quit Wednesday as Conservative Party communications director after just six months in the job.

Mr. Colver, 50, explained his sudden and unexpected resignation by saying he was not suited to the job of handling the party's image in the run-up to the next election, due within 18 months.

But in an article Thursday in the Sun newspaper, usually loyal to the Conservatives, Mr. Colver attacked a party he said had managed to "continually snatch defeat from the jaws of victory".

Mr. Colver said he had sat in on countless high-level ministerial meetings where potential trouble spots were identified in plenty of time to take avoiding action.

But despite having the advantage of "a well-oiled government machine at our fingertips", Mr. Colver said members of the cabinet "simply raised their hands in surrender".

"The Tory (Conservative) Party behave as if they are in office by divine right — and assume voters will eventually see sense and rally to the flag."

"With this sieve mentality, they are prepared to lose these battles in the assumption that they will eventually win the war," he said in a bitter attack on a party which has held power for 16 years but which polls give little chance of a new term.

"It is the Mohammad Ali technique of taking a terrible hammering in the hope of exhausting your opponent while you stay on your feet," Mr. Colver wrote.

Mr. Colver also took aim at Mr. Major himself, saying he had yet to show "resolute day-to-day leadership".

The attack came just three days after many Conservative members of parliament ignored Mr. Major's advice and sided with the opposition Labour Party to force MPs to declare how much they earn from acting as political consultants to companies.

It was a personal humiliation for Mr. Major, who polls have shown trails Labour badly.

## Japanese court assigns more lawyers to defend Asahara

TOKYO (AP) — A court added seven lawyers Thursday to the team defending doomsday cult leader Shoko Asahara against murder charges in the lethal nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subways.

The unusual move apparently was part of efforts to prevent further delays in his trial, news reports said. The first session, scheduled in late October, was postponed after Asahara fired his lawyer and has yet to be rescheduled.

Mr. Asahara later rehired the lawyer, but meanwhile the Tokyo District Court began assigning others to assist the lone defence counsel, Shoji Yokoyama. Before Thursday's appointments, three already had been assigned to help sort out the complex cases against the leader of the Aum Shinri Kyo cult.

The major charge against

Asahara is that he masterminded the March 20 release of the nerve gas sarin on Tokyo's subways, which killed 12 people and sickened more than 5,500 others.

He also has been charged in an earlier sarin attack that killed seven people in a northern city and in the deaths of a wayward cult follower and a lawyer and his family. The lawyer had been opposing the cult in court.

Kyodo News Service reported unnamed police sources Thursday as saying police were preparing to ask prosecutors to bring additional charges against Asahara for suspected illegal production of machine guns and hallucinogenic drugs.

Asahara had predicted an apocalypse that only cult members would survive, and media reports quoting

police sources have said the cult was preparing various kinds of weapons for attacks aimed at making the prediction come true.

The alleged gun and drug production took place at the cult's main compound at Kamikushiki, Yamanashi prefecture (state), near Mount Fuji.

Also Thursday, Kyodo News Service said 481 Kamikushiki residents, who have long opposed the activities of the cult on a ranch in the rural community, filed a civil suit demanding 240 million Yen (\$2.35 million) from the cult.

They say the cult's alleged sarin production at its commune there "infringed on our right to live a stable, safe life," said Kyodo, which quoted suit documents.

The cult moved to the commune in 1989.

## Pat Barker wins British literary prize

LONDON (R) — English novelist Pat Barker, writer of a haunting trilogy about World War I, fought off a fierce challenge from Indian-born Salman Rushdie Tuesday to win Britain's top literary prize.

Barker, a 52-year-old former teacher from northern England whose first novel was not published until she was 39, landed the £20,000 (\$31,650) Booker Prize for The Ghost Road.

It intermingled fact with fiction in the tale of a working-class lieutenant battling the horrors of the trenches alongside poet Wilfred Owen.

Recalling the psychological scars of the conflict, she told reporters: "Shell shock was misunderstood as a failure of manliness. This was part of the torment the men suffered."

Barker, facing the literary

equivalent of Hollywood Oscar night, said she was sick of hearing her own voice and thanked her competitors for their friendly attitude — and for writing such wonderful books.

Rushdie, under threat of death from Iran for blasphemy, had been the hottest favourite in the 27-year history of the prestigious prize.

Bookmakers considered him a certainty to win with The Moor's Last Sigh.

But Barker, the first woman to land the Booker since A.S. Byatt in 1990, emerged the winner after hours of heated debate by the judges.

Barker was a teacher who lived on a diet of rejection slips before her first novel Union Street was published in 1982. It was later made into a film Stanley And Iris starring Jane Fonda and Robert De Niro — not a happy adaptation for her.

But she really won literary acclaim with her three books on World War I, culminating in The Ghost Road, published by Viking Press at £15 (\$23.69).

Barker, who drew much inspiration from her grandfather's tales of the trenches, said: "The Somme is like the holocaust. It revealed things about mankind that we cannot come to terms with and cannot forget. It can never become the effects it had on society."

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POLAND ELECTION CAMPAIGN: Former Polish Communist leader Alexander Kwasniewski smiles as he is framed by traditionally dressed folk singers during a campaign trip to Maslowice, a village in central Poland. Maslowice is a stronghold of Mr. Kwasniewski who will run in the second round of Polish presidential elections against incumbent Lech Walesa on Nov. 19 (AFP photo)

## Irish police stop suspected van bomb

BELFAST (R) — Irish police said they found a suspected bomb in a van they stopped early Friday near the border with Northern Ireland.

Two men were being held under Irish anti-terrorism laws in connection with the discovery, a police spokesman said.

"It is believed that there was a bomb on board," he added. "We won't know for definite until it is examined by army experts."

Initial media reports said that one of the two being held was linked to the Irish National Republican Army,

a little-known breakaway group opposed to British rule in Northern Ireland and to current moves towards a peace settlement.

Northern Ireland has enjoyed an unprecedented 15-month period of calm since the main Republican guerrilla force, the Irish Republican Army (IRA), and its "loyalist" pro-British Protestant foes declared matching truces.

Only three bombs, all unexploded, have been found in this period by British security forces, a stark contrast to the violence and the 3,200 deaths

in 25 years of sectarian conflict before the ceasefires.

Specialist Irish police units and Irish troops have tightened security near the border in recent months to prevent any breaches of the ceasefires by breakaway groups.

The peace process is currently in stalemate, with the British government insisting that guerrilla groups hand in arms before joining all-party peace talks, a position described by the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein as a "demand for surrender".

## Rigging claims mar Azeri elections

BAKU (AFP) — Azerbaijan's general election Sunday, which the authorities hope will bring stability after two coups in four years of independence, has already been dismissed by opposition parties as heavily rigged.

The 4.4 million electorate will also be taking part in a referendum on a new constitution strengthening the powers of President Geydar Aliyev, who was the number one here in Soviet days and has been ruling again for just more than two years.

Uncovering plots has become something of a way of life, the latest with four men arrested early this month for reportedly planning to shoot down Mr. Aliyev's plane.

But in an article Thursday in the Sun newspaper, usually loyal to the Conservatives, Mr. Colver attacked a party he said had managed to "continually snatch defeat from the jaws of victory".

Eight parties are registered for the proportional voting and there are 392 candidates for the 100 constituency seats. The Popular Front of former President Abulfaz Elchibey, overthrown in June 1993, is the only opposition party in the proportional poll.

Its deputy chief Asim Mollazade, decrying "electoral manipulation," said that nonetheless it was necessary to take part if there was the slightest chance that even a single independent won a seat "to let us continue the struggle by political means."

Mr. Aliyev's Yeni Azerbaijan (New Azerbaijan) and a number of pro-government parties contested the field.

Yeni's deputy leader Ali Nagiyev said the Caucasus republic of 7.5 million people was for the first time experiencing an election campaign "based on democratic and multi-party principles."

He admitted there had been some "inadequacies" but said the authorities were using all sorts of trickery to survive.

Observers from the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe issued a joint statement this week stating that "The real cause of unease is linked with the possibility that some candidates and parties may have been unlawfully deprived of participation in the elections."

The mission therefore notes that voters have been deprived of freely electing their own representatives."

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Its deputy chief Asim Mollazade, decrying "electoral manipulation," said that nonetheless it was necessary to take part if there was the slightest chance that even a single independent won a seat "to let us continue the struggle by political means."

He added that Mr. Aliyev's entourage was backing these initiatives along with deputies who fear losing the election.

Another reformist deputy, Boris Fiodorov, said that any change in the law would be "inadmissible."

"Even if the law is imperfect, you cannot change the electoral process while it is already under way," he said.

Ivan Bespalov, a Communist deputy opposed to any changes in the law, charged that the constitutional challenges were an attempt by Mr. Yeltsin to prevent the Communists from having a majority in parliament.

In a country where the average monthly wage is barely \$10, and despite the prospect of riches from recently signed oil contracts, the election campaign has aroused little popular enthusiasm.

"The most important thing is that one has to scurry about every day to see to it that you do not die of hunger," said Fuad, 35. He added dismissively, "as for politics...."

## Russian deputies ask Constitutional Court to examine electoral law

MOSCOW (AFP) — In a fresh challenge to the Constitutional Court to examine the legality of Article 62.

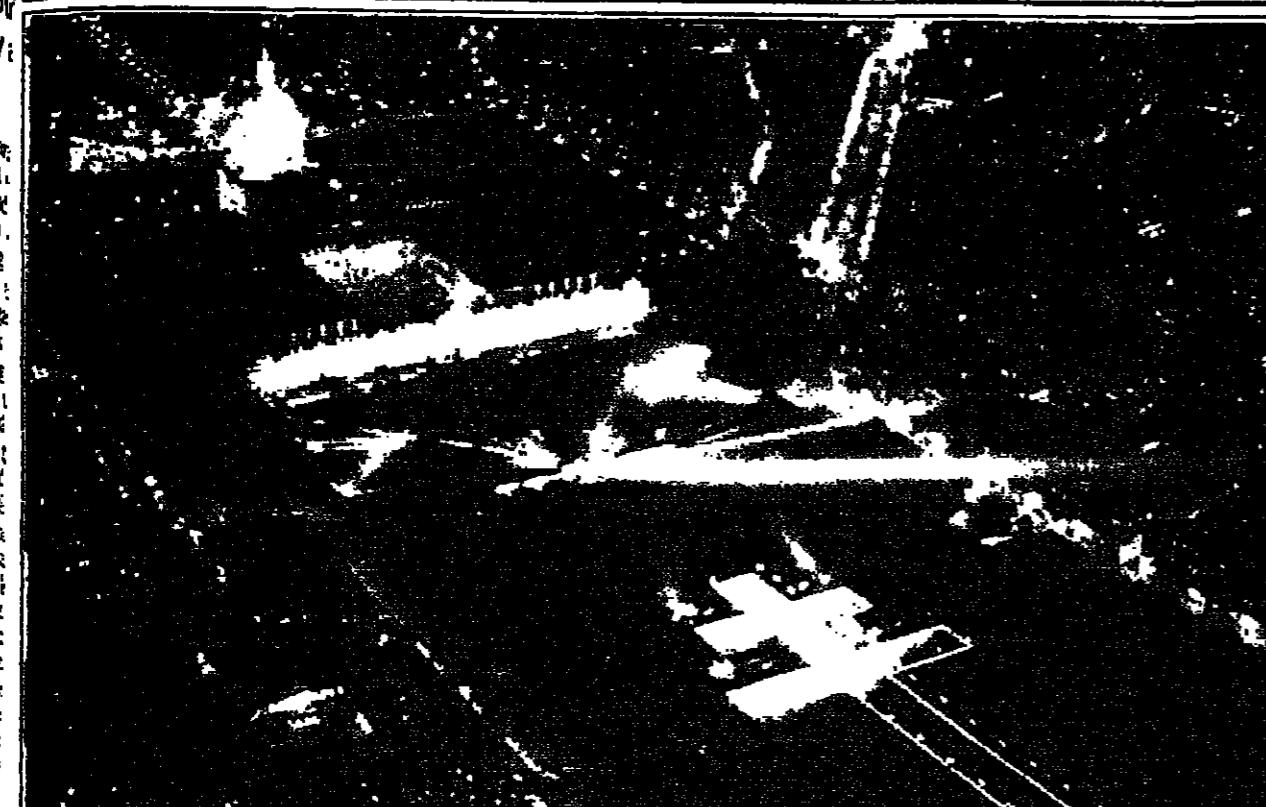
The elections to the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, are expected to bring victories for nationalist and pro-Communist parties opposed to President Boris Yeltsin, who is in hospital for heart trouble.

The five-per cent rule is mainly opposed by parties with the least support. A total of 42 parties are registered for the elections, the Electoral Commission announced Friday, which was the deadline for registration.

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# World News

Jordan Times, Saturday, November 11, 1995 5



Aerial view of the giant Cross of the Lorraine which was formed by 800 French soldiers in front of the Hotel Des Invalides in Paris. The display was part of a ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of General Charles De Gaulle's death (AFP photo)

## Chirac projects himself as heir to De Gaulle

PARIS (R) — President Jacques Chirac, sinking in the opinion polls, uneasily sought to project himself as the successor of Gen. Charles De Gaulle Thursday in ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the iconic French leader's death.

Mr. Chirac began the day by laying a wreath of flowers in the the blue, white and red national colours on Gen. De Gaulle's grave at Colombey-Les-Deux-Eglises, the tiny east France village where the late president died on Nov. 9, 1970 and was buried.

He later stood, flanked by the general's family, at a grandiose night-time ceremony on the vast esplanade des invalides near the River Seine as nearly 1,000 torch-carrying soldiers formed a huge Cross of Lorraine, the Gaullist emblem.

But even some Gaullists were taken aback and spoke of excess and bad taste when they learned Chirac had spent the night at La Boissiere, the general's home at Colombey which has been uninhabited since his widow's death in 1979.

Mr. Chirac was invited by retired Admiral Philippe De Gaulle, the general's only son who is a Senate member for the Rally For the Republic (RPR) party which carried Mr. Chirac to power.

Mr. Chirac's attempts to demonstrate he was the general's heir came with his popularity tumbling faster than that of any other presi-

dent less than six months after he took office. One recent poll showed he had the support of only 14 per cent of voters.

Polls reflect dissatisfaction over failure to roll back near-record unemployment and implement campaign promises of tax cuts. Voters also are concerned over mounting violence in immigrant-inhabited suburbs.

Polls show that Gen. De Gaulle, who ruled in 1944-46 and 1958-69, was the most popular French president of modern times.

Most politicians praised Gen. De Gaulle Thursday as a man of vision who fought the Nazi occupation, led France away from the trauma of World War II and founded the Fifth Republic.

"I was petrified. He did all the talking. He told me: 'You want to be a fighter

pilot. Well, try not to get killed, we'll still need people like you after the war.'

"I replied 'oui mon général, saluted and tried to turn around without getting my feet caught in the carpet,'" said Mr. Clostermann, now 74.

"The second time we met was towards the end of the war and I was pretty well decorated by then and had decided it would be chic to wear laced up boots like the World War I fighter aces."

"The general took one look at me and said: 'Clostermann, you look as if you're going fishing or horse riding. Get back into uniform,' my ego was deflated in one second. What could I say? 'oui mon général' as usual," he said with a laugh.

Pierre Clostermann, France's leading World War II fighter pilot who shot down 33 German planes, recalled meeting the general for the first time in London when he arrived to join the Free French Movement in 1941.

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## Enabling majority to win

**HIS MAJESTY** King Hussein's speech to senior officers of the armed, security and intelligence forces on Thursday has raised many important questions which require adequate reflection and deliberation. Two primary developments obviously lay behind what the King had to say. One is the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week at the hands of an apparently organised Israeli extremist group nurtured on hate, extremism and fanaticism; and the other is related to the internal scene here in Jordan where a group of vociferous ultranationalists seems to have succeeded in dominating the debate over Jordan's relationship to its own citizens, mainly from Palestinian origin.

The King has rightly noted that the Israeli tolerance of Jewish fundamentalism and nationalistic fanaticism succeeded in nurturing a climate of hate that culminated in the killing of Mr. Rabin. One natural conclusion to be drawn from the Monarch's timely reminder about the need to respect certain red lines that should never be trespassed is the pressing desire to revitalise the so-called silent majority, something the King alluded to with force. Only through the activation of the majority would there be an opportunity to check the tyranny of the outspoken minority.

Yet this quest for a robust role for the majority is easier said than done. How to rally the people of this country on the side of national unity, peace, development and stability calls for hard work on the part of the government. Assuming that the opinions of the majority on key policy considerations can be easily identified, it remains to be seen how their views can be rallied to support principal policy guidelines, such as peace with Israel.

There are several options available to Jordanians to attain this objective. One way lies in broadening the base of the government. There are important sectors of the public that are not represented in the Cabinet. Another way is to rearticulate a new sense of citizenship based on contemporary criteria. We have many people who are unnecessarily alienated. In this vein, we would like to see the concerns of the King on what constitutes Jordanianism as reaffirmed in his latest speech translated into deeds forthwith. The Monarch had repeatedly drawn attention to this issue and even personally intervened to rectify wrong policies and practices on nationality rights. A minority of us immediately attacked the attempts to redress this problem and presumed that they have a birth-right obligation to do so because their narrow perspectives and interests had been allowed to penetrate society without a counter effort to reach out to the population as a whole. Why all the calls for treating all Jordanians on equal terms have been left unimplemented is something that causes us deep concern. This kind of omission obviously erodes majority participation in shaping the future of the country.

This is not to mention the other dimensions of discrimination that still exist amongst our society without succeeding in triggering a concerted governmental reaction.

Of all concerns, however, the role of the mass media in healing or causing this malaise must be uppermost on our minds. If we take the example of Israel, it was the free-for-all situation which the Rabin government had allowed that ended up fanning and disseminating hate propaganda that culminated in the assassination of the prime minister. All democratic nations have laws governing hate propaganda. International law obligates all states to legislate against the spreading of hate reports. We are all for drawing a line that freedom of speech and expression must not be allowed to cross. Expressions of opinion calling for incitement to ethnic or religious conflicts are clearly unlawful under all systems of government worldwide. Still the media cannot do much better than the society it serves. If the majority of a people is silent on support for certain policy issues, the press will end up being silent as well. Only through deepening the democratic process would there be room for the majority to make their weight felt in the press or the decision-making process.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i on Friday said there was no need for people to worry about schemes being drawn for the Middle East region. Fahd Al Faneck said the people of the region should have no fear since they have nothing to lose but backwardness, poverty, disunity and dictatorships. He said even the enemies of the Middle East cannot imagine a situation for this region worse than the current one. It is no secret that the economic and social conditions of the region, which was once called the Arab World, is the worst in the world, with the exception of the Black Africa region. "Our solace has always been that there is a region other than ours taking the last spot in terms of economic development, but our fear is that we are about to lose our inviolable place," said Dr. Faneck. He said the last spot for the Middle East was inevitable now after France pledged to offer generous assistance to the African nations, declaring that aid allocated through the European Union (EU) to Africa will exceed that allotted by Germany and Britain in spite of the economic hardships it was facing. The writer quoted the French minister of overseas development as saying that economic growth in Africa was about five per cent annually and that they have surpluses in their trade balances.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Giving credit where it is due

By Dr. Musa Keilani

AS THE reverberations of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin continue to rock the Middle East, there is no definite parameter to judge the street reaction in Jordan to the murder of a man who largely symbolised the hope of many for peace in the region at large, with comprehensive solution to Israel's conflicts with its Arab neighbours.

But there is no denial of the fact that there is a sense of loss, albeit not necessarily on a personal level, among Jordanians regardless of their political beliefs. After all, for us in Jordan, the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel not only restored to us our full territorial and water rights, but also gave the entire region a strong impetus to economic development that should eventually reflect on our daily lives.

The sense of loss stems from the realisation that Mr. Rabin was not simply a military-officer-turned-politician who found it fitting his political ambitions to make peace with the Arabs. Let us not forget that the late Israeli leader's dedication to the course of peace with the Arabs was the precise reason that led to his assassination by a fellow Israeli and that Israeli settlers celebrated the death of their prime minister whom they saw as bringing about their eviction from their colonies in occupied Arab territory.

There is also a minority among us in Jordan that rejoiced over the death of Mr. Rabin, who, according to this minority's belief, had done unpardonable injustices to the Palestinians. Well, everyone is entitled to his or her free, independent opinion, but no one is free to impose his or her views on others, but it would be only fair and just to give credit where it is due.

A pragmatic view of the demise of Mr. Rabin will

make it clear that the death of the Israeli prime minister is indeed a loss to Jordan. But we have to raise above the clouds of the past to reach that judgement, supported by historical logic and a vision of the future.

It cannot be denied that Mr. Rabin had led his country to wars that saw Israel occupying Arab territory and depriving the Arabs and Palestinians of their rights. But are we going to hold that against him even in his grave, and overlook the fact that Mr. Rabin was the Israeli leader who accepted the inevitability of making peace with the Arabs and Palestinians on the basis of returning territory? Should we have been content to dealing with the likes of Yitzhak Shamir and Ariel Sharon in the Middle East peace process that was launched four years ago but showed no sign of getting anywhere until Mr. Rabin and his confidant, Shimon Peres, appeared on the Israeli political scene?

Are we in Jordan holding the "shortcomings" of the Oslo agreements between Israel and the Palestinians against Mr. Rabin while ignoring the fact that the agreements were independently concluded between the sole and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people and the Israeli government? Isn't it unjustifiable to expect Jordan, which regained its full rights from Israel, to continue to live in an atmosphere clouded by the decisions taken by others on their own fate and future?

We in Jordan paid a dear price for the fallout of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1947. Are we expected to continue to pay the price simply because Israel and another independent party, with no influence or pressure from our side, opted for their own course towards

eventual peace?

For the man on the Jordanian street, it should be a strong reminder that Mr. Rabin understood the complexities of not only making peace but also keeping it and building on it, and if the man's vision would come true it would mean an improvement of life on the Jordanian street.

It came as a surprise to many in Jordan to hear Mr. Rabin arguing Jordan's case for assistance in Europe and the United States before and after the signing of the Oct. 26 peace treaty. But then, it should not have been a surprise for those who really understood Mr. Rabin's approach to peace with Jordan and appreciated his belief that signing a peace treaty did not mean much unless accompanied by a qualitative change in the lives of the people. Granted that there is strong political motivation for Israel to ensure that peace means an uplifting of life for Jordanians if they were to be expected to cherish and maintain that peace? But does not negate the very approach adopted by Mr. Rabin?

Those who argue that the death of Mr. Rabin served the Arab cause do not seem to understand the philosophy of peace. For decades, we in Jordan were waiting for an Israeli leader with political vision to see that military might was not the answer to his country's "security" concerns and that the real answer was through accepting that Arab territory had to be returned and Arab rights had to be respected. And that leader came in the form of Mr. Rabin. It will be gross injustice to label Mr. Rabin a killer and completely side-step his achievements in terms of advancing the region towards the cherished dream of peace and stability.

M. KAHLI



## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# Enemies of peace should not be allowed to prevail

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE ARAB press last week discussed and analysed the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and its effects on the future of the peace process. The Arabic dailies also tackled a number domestic affairs.

A writer in Al Ra'i daily said that with his death, Yitzhak Rabin has achieved the most significant political victory on the domestic level and the tragic event could signal the start of a genuine transformation in Israel's position, shifting it towards a just peace with the Arabs. Tareq Masarwi said that Israel could not have attracted so many of the world's leaders for the burial of its prime minister had it not displayed its determination to abandon the gains made through military occupation and its tendency to make peace with the Arabs. The Israeli society must have realised the message that the leaders of the world came to Israel in order to reaffirm their support for peace and for Israel's determination to end the cycle of hostility and violence, said the writer. The late Israeli prime minister's policies, added the writer, showed the world that Israel has decided to give up military occupation and to become part of the new Middle East and to recognise the rights of the Palestinians in their Palestinian homeland. This tendency won Rabin this great support from world-leaders because he had decided with great courage to free Israel from the historic ghetto and the illusion of military might.

Hamadeh Faraaq, a writer in Al Dusour, criticised those who rejoiced over the killing of the Israeli Prime Minister.

Mousa Barhoumeh, a writer in Al Ra'i, blamed the extremist groups and fanatics for the killing of the Israeli premier, saying that the tragic event could mark the beginning of deep splits within the Israeli society. The writer said that the Israeli society should have woken up to the fact that terrorist groups were preparing for a disaster to the Jewish state when a Jewish settler gunned down scores of worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Saying that the killing of Rabin has opened wide the eyes of the Israeli society about the terrorist groups and their actions, the writer said the Israeli government should undertake drastic measures against the opponents of peace and should be ready to face the coming danger.

Sultan Al Hattab, a writer in Al Ra'i, called on the Arab members in the Israeli parliament, the Palestine National Authority as well as Jordan and Egypt to extend full support to Shimon Peres and help him to go ahead in the peace process.

The writer said that these parties must help the acting premier to carry out Rabin's plans of giving back to the Palestinians their lands and their towns. According to the writer, Peres is bound to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor and could even take faster steps towards speeding up the Israeli forces withdrawal in implementation of the Taba agreement. Peres, said the writer, has a good chance to give an impetus to the peace process on all tracks and abort the hostile camp's attempts to disrupt the peace process.

Writing under the title of 'the enemies of peace under the spotlight,' a writer in Al Ra'i said that the Israeli government ought to follow the advice of the politicians

in the Jewish state who have now called for disarming the settlers as a first step to stem the power of the peace opponents. Mahmoud Rimawi said that there is even need for the government to embark on a policy of urging and later forcing the settlers to give up their settlements in the Arab lands and go back to Israel if the peace process is to take its course. The writer said the Israelis should realise that the opponents of peace are terrorists who form real waiting for a chance to terminate the peace process. These enemies, numbering around 100,000, are armed to the teeth and they are the real terrorists whose eviction from their settlements was demanded by wise Israelis in the wake of the cold-blooded murder of Muslim worshippers in Hebron.

In the view of Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dusour, the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin dealt a real blow to the drive to attract investments to the Middle East. The writer said that concerned governments in the region and those which participated in the Amman economic summit are urged to double their efforts to show the world community that the peace process will continue unperturbed. He said the government of Shimon Peres should take speedy steps to implement the Taba agreement with the Palestinians and also take practical steps to review the negotiations with the Syrians.

A columnist in Al Dusour said that the ruling Labour Party in Israel should not waste any time but should rather try with all its might to utilise the assassination of Rabin to mobilise popular support for its policies.

# The lesson of Algeria

By Gwynne Dyer

QUESTION: What should you do when you think the people who are going to win a democratic election are not democrats?

Answer: Let them win. They might not hold another election when the scheduled time rolls around, which would then make them anti-democratic. If you cancel this one, you are already anti-democratic. And you may also be starting a civil war.

In January, 1992, the Algerian government cancelled the country's first-ever free elections because the Islamic fundamentalists looked certain to win, and practically every Western and Arab government tacitly backed its decision. Even then, it seemed a short-sighted and hypocritical policy. In retrospect, it looks like criminal stupidity.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi says the presidential vote on Nov. 16 will enable Algeria to find "a true democracy where you don't kill somebody who thinks differently than you." But the only candidates are President Lamine Zeroual (a former general), and three nonentities from government-approved parties.

All the real political forces in the country, including the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) that won the war for independence from France in 1962. And there were good prospects for a smooth transition to a post-FIS democratic system, because the last FLN ruler, General Chadli Benjedid, had responded to bloody anti-government riots in 1988 by promising free elections.

And he delivered. The first round of voting in late 1991 went off very well — except that the FIS came out ahead. That was when the panic set in, for the panic set in, for the fundamentalist party seemed certain to win an absolute majority in the second round.

So Mr. Chadli was forced to resign, and a clique of hardline generals seized power (after assuring themselves of the tacit support of France and other Western and Arab countries) and cancelled the elections. They are still in power today.

There was never any evidence that the FIS would ban further elections if it won. In any case, servants of the old regime that had refused to risk free elections are boycotting the poll.

And the armed Islamic groups in Algeria for the previous three decades had no right to cast doubt on their opponents' motives. The whole thing stank of panic and prejudice — and the result was to pitch Algeria into a civil war that now rivals Sri Lanka for the title of the most lethal conflict on the planet.

There has already been a great deal of killing in Algeria, and since July the bombings have spread to France, where the Islamic militants accuse the French government of backing the military regime in Algiers.

In a wonderful irony, President Zeroual then refused to speak to French President Jacques Chirac in a scheduled meeting in New York last month because he was unwilling to take "lessons in political behaviour" from France. (Mr. Chirac, to placate the French left, had announced that he would urge Mr. Zeroual to compromise with the Muslim militants).

Damned if you do, and damned if you don't. You almost feel sorry for the French, coping with a terrorist bombing campaign to punish them for backing the Algerian regime, while its leader publicly snubs them. But your pity would be misplaced.

The truth is that the French government richly deserves to be punished for its role in Algeria. It is a shame that Parisian commuters are losing their legs or their lives in bomb attacks because of their

government's actions, but it is not surprising.

But Muslim fundamentalist movements are not inherently violent. Mostly, they turn to violence when the normal political avenues to power have all been blocked.

They were not violent in Algeria, despite 30 years of misrule and corruption by the heirs of the National Liberation Front (FLN) that won the war for independence from France in 1962. And there were good prospects for a smooth transition to a post-FLN democratic system, because the last FLN ruler, General Chadli Benjedid, had responded to bloody anti-government riots in 1988 by promising free elections.

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Lots of reasons are offered for France's backing for the Algerian military. There are already some five million Muslim immigrants in France, over half of them Algerians, and Paris feared that a fundamentalist victory in the Algerian elections would unleash an unstoppable new wave of Algerians seeking shelter in France.

But if the FIS had come to power peacefully and legally, there would have been no refugees. Many members of the educated and secularised middle class in Algeria would have hated the petty restrictions the FIS would have imposed, but that doesn't mean they could claim refugee status.

Whereas if the fundamentalists win now or in the future, there will be up to a million refugees from Algeria with legitimate reason to fear their lives. After so much killing, there would be drastic retribution against those the fundamentalists see as enemies.

The truth is that the French government richly deserves to be punished for its role in Algeria. It is a shame that Parisian commuters are losing their legs or their lives in bomb attacks because of their

King: Following is the text of the speech delivered by King Hussein of Jordan on November 11, 1995. The speech was delivered at the Royal Palace in Amman, Jordan. The King addressed the nation and the world, expressing his views on the recent peace process in the Middle East. The King also spoke about the importance of peace and stability in the region. The speech was well received by the Jordanian people and the international community. The King's speech was widely praised for its clarity and depth. The King's message was that peace and stability are the keys to a better future for Jordan and the region. The King also expressed his support for the peace process and the efforts of the international community to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The King's speech was broadcast on television and radio stations across Jordan and the world. The King's speech was also published in various newspapers and magazines. The King's speech was a major event in Jordan and the region. The King's speech was a major milestone in the peace process. The King's speech was a major contribution to the peace process. The King's speech was a major achievement for the King and the people of Jordan. The King's speech was a major victory for the King and the people of Jordan. The King's speech was a major success for the King and the people of Jordan. The King's speech was a major triumph for the King and the people of Jordan. The King's speech was a major breakthrough for the King and the people of Jordan. The King's speech was a major breakthrough for the King and the people of Jordan. The King's speech was a major breakthrough for the

# Features



JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1995 7

## King: Democracy shouldn't become vehicle to destroy national unity

Following is the text of His Majesty King Hussein Thursday at the Royal Medical Services Centre to senior military, public security, and intelligence officers. The translation was provided by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

I thank the chief of staff for his welcoming speech on behalf of the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, the Arab legion and all those you here represent. I hope you would convey to all your colleagues, the officers, the non-commissioned officers and the privates my thanks, and that of Jordan, my gratitude, and that of Jordanians for all that you gave, through time, for being the shield of the homeland and its hope, the trustworthy to carry Jordan's message, the righteous soldiers defending the dignity of the Kingdom and its right to live and its stands under all circumstances and conditions, defending this country, the heir and bearer of the Great Arab Revolt this country which will remain dignified. God willing, by the awareness and loyalty of its men whom you represent at this meeting.

Gratitude goes to you, for all your efforts and sleepless nights that you spent preparing for the hosting of the Amman economic summit, the capital of agreement and reconciliation, which led effectively to the summit's success, making our country, Jordan, well known to all as a powerful and notable country aspiring for the future in confidence and in hope. This country which works in determination to be always and forever an example and a model.

Many of those who visited Jordan came to our country for the first time. It served as an opportunity for numerous meetings on different levels: officials, state and international organisation's representatives, and businessmen and private sector representatives who came from all over the world. During that event a large number of media representatives came to Jordan to cover the major event from all over the world. Thank God, we only heard phrases of appreciation and admiration for the standards of preparation, and for the warm reception and hospitality they received, and also the great effort which was exerted to make Jordan known to all, and in turn providing the

and presented always, and being at the lead in doing so.

The masses expressed themselves on more than one occasion, I want to assure you and pledge before you my determination to continue serving those pure and honest citizens whose foreheads would remain high in dignity. This good men of the south, the north and the heartland, of the desert and in the green valley. Those good men from which our army comes from, which our armed forces are formulated: from the cities, the badias and all locations and posts.

Thank God for what was achieved. We are full of trust and hope in a promising future, God willing.

Concerning the Armed Forces, it is our pride and joy. It is the hope. All its members represent the ultimate in awareness, loyalty and contribution to the land of Jordan.

These days witnessed grave events that we all heard of and were affected by. It gave our minds room for revision of many stances, to look deeply into the reality that we live.

We must recognise, especially after the economic summit, that many people showed admiration and appreciation for this country.

Admiration for its contributions, its sincerity, its honesty and the integrity of its people.

There was no newspaper in this world that did not laud this country's achievements, no official or visitor who did not pay tribute to Jordan and its accomplishments no one who did not feel that this country is far bigger than its size and its reality.

On the national level, however, this event did not receive the appropriate echo that promises of a hopeful future, self-confidence and appreciation of what was achieved and accomplished. This phenomena we have been suffering from for a long time. This country which gave and still is giving continuously deserves more from its writers, its media, its press and journalists.

On the people's level, I'm full of appreciation, gratitude, admiration, and confidence and peace of mind. The great majority of the people are with this country, believing in it, holding on to it and cherishing what it has achieved

would stop commenting on what happened there to look into what happened here.

I would like to remind my brothers, my brother the prime minister who enjoys my trust and great hope, my brother the Crown Prince, my brothers the officers and the commanders here, that if these circumstances led to what happened there, we are living similar circumstances and emotions here.

Democracy does not mean, in any way, crossing the red lines, destroying national unity, destroying what is worth something, and underestimating the achievements of this country towards its persistent citizens, the real genuine men. I have said it before, maybe in this same hall, that I don't feel that there is a media, either on the official or the media in general, that belongs to this country defending it or its achievements, reflecting the colourful image of this country or heralding its bright reality. I only find a process of continued destruction and demolition from the inside

and making it a success, for the continuous care of my brother Hassan, and for the efforts in the economic field of this country.

But, as an advice from a big brother, I call upon the silent majority to have its say in all of this foolishness.

To stand in the face of the powers of darkness, to reflect the genuine image of this country and its people, resembling that manifestation when I was destined to recover from a dangerous disease.

And when I came back there was a manifestation that I would never forget and would always serve as my motive as long as I live to work for the best of this people and its future through giving opportunities to all the men and women of Jordan in a promising future. Let me say it honestly and clearly:

Do not destroy in the name of democracy. Don't abuse tolerance to destroy this democracy.

As you all remember at the beginning, there was talk of signing peace then discussing details. We refused and he (Yitzhak Rabin) accepted our view point. Then there was the long road and the great efforts of everyone until a just and honourable peace was reached. Our rights were restored and we are now on the threshold of moving to a prosperous future, God willing.

Some are saying that the leadership is favouring the Palestinians at the expense of Jordanians. Some even went to say that the leadership is a stranger to Jordan. What is Jordan? This Jordan was built by this leadership, by you and with you. This leadership saved this Jordan from conspiracies that were plotted against it. This Jordan is now a model and an example for all Arabs. Some are

"There is the camp of darkness, death, havoc and destruction, and there is the camp of life, peace, security and stability. I belong to the latter camp."

in order for this country to fall. God willing, this country will not fail.

Rats have come out from their holes. Observers of what happened in the recent past should have noticed what I have said carefully. I'm not Muammar Qaddafi and Jordan is not Libya. Jordan does not deal with its people like Qaddafi deals with his Palestinian brothers and folks who are guests in his country. We do not do that because we are all citizens in this country, citizens in solidarity and unity. We called for the reform of some shortcomings which we realised existed such as denying some Jordanians their citizenship which they deserve due to their long belonging to this country. Some of them were treated in an inappropriate way. I have said it before that anyone who seeks to harm or hinder the national unity of this country in anyway is my enemy till the day of judgement. I don't know if any of my brothers here read the cheap newspapers. They

are criticising and some are giving speeches. Some are abusing pulpits and platforms assigned for preaching wisely for what is righteous, and what is good.

Some are criticising what we have done in accordance with what our duty tells us to do towards those who cooperated with us in realising peace, and with whom we entered a clear and candid dialogue to regain our land and our water on the bases of the stand we adopted since 1967.

This continued till our Palestinian brothers decided to act by themselves to gain their self-determination concerning their own affairs and in accordance with their circumstances. This stance, which did not accept to compromise an inch of Palestinian land or any of its people's rights on their national soil.

When the issue was out of our hand in accordance with the wishes of our Palestinian brothers, the Arabs, the Muslims, and the whole world, and when

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## Iraq's official press criticises soaring prices

BAGHDAD (R) — Soaring prices have drawn sharp criticism from Iraq's official press and one newspaper described the economic situation as gloomy.

The papers said prices surged to incredible levels following last month's referendum which reinstated Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in office for seven more years.

They blamed profiteers and traders for the rises but stopped short of urging the reapplication of draconian measures which had included amputations, long prison terms and even the death penalty.

The newspapers have rarely been so open in their criticism of the country's economy, devastated by more than five years of U.N. trade sanctions imposed for Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The official Al Qadissiya newspaper said prices of clothes skyrocketed to unprecedented levels at least 100 per cent higher than last year.

"Prices of clothes are now like fire burning the one approaching them," the paper said.

The cheapest blouse in Baghdad was sold for 25,000 dinars on Wednesday and a man's shirt cost at least 10,000.

"The surge is incredible," said the paper.

Traders in Shorja market, Baghdad's commercial hub, said prices of certain food items were going up by 100-150 dinars a day and some had surged 100 per cent in three months.

A kilogramme of lentils, formerly the poor man's diet in Iraq, fetched 1,400 dinars,

beans 2,400, rice 1,300 and a tray of 30 eggs 4,000.

The average monthly salary of a civil servant in Iraq is about 5,000 dinars.

The newspaper Babel, owned by Saddam's eldest son Uday, said Iraqi teachers were bearing the brunt of the inflation as their meagre salaries hardly covered their transport fees.

"This gloomy picture... is what the enemies want and their programme is being implemented by traders in both private and state sectors," said the government newspaper Al Jumhouria.

The government, its coffers empty due to the sanctions, which have blocked oil exports and frozen assets abroad, is in no position to intervene.

It has turned down a U.N. offer allowing it a one-time sale of oil to pay for urgent needs, saying the conditions infringe on its sovereignty.

Unlike in the past, Junhouriya blamed both the state and private traders for economic chaos. It also said it was against the reintroduction of heavy punishments "which, according to past experience, gave no positive result."

"Their application, moreover, would unleash accusations of human rights violations against us," it warned.

Shorja's traders said they were victims of a volatile economy and a sinking currency which Wednesday tumbled to more than 2,300 dinars to the U.S. dollar on the black market, its lowest rate ever.

They said the prices were bound to surge and the dinar's loss value so long as sanctions on Iraq remained intact.

## Arab banks urged to support stock markets

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab banks should surpass their traditional services to support their burgeoning stock markets to woo back overseas funds and finance reforms, the Arab financial think-tank said Friday.

Although most of the Arab World's 322 commercial banks are trading their shares in the regional stock exchanges, they still fall short of the services provided by banks in advanced countries, the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said.

"Arab banks should work for providing a comprehensive set of investment, financial and consulting services that exceed the traditional services and facilities they are offering," the Abu Dhabi-based fund said in a study.

AMF officials said development of the stock markets in the region was essential for economic reforms as they widen investment scopes and help repatriate overseas Arab funds, estimated at

more than \$800 billion. Several Arab nations have embarked on reforms to tackle economic problems caused mainly by decades of state domination. They include foreign debts of more than \$150 billion, negative growth rates, inflation, unemployment, and persistent deficits in the budgets and balances of payments.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial organisation, has been involved in plans to encourage reforms through extending soft loans, developing the stock markets and pressing members without exchanges to open floors.

"Despite the rapid development in Arab bourses in the current stage, they are still suffering from defective legal and organisational

structures," AMF Chairman Jassim Al Manai told an economic seminar this week.

"They also lack secondary markets, incentives and market-makers at a time when there is a pressing need to develop those bourses to support economic restructuring programmes and the concept of market economy," he added.

According to the AMF, 10 of the Arab League's 22 members have official exchanges while some others are planning to set up floors.

By the end of 1993, around 1,100 banks and companies were trading in the regional markets, with a paid-up capital of nearly \$32 billion and turnover of less than \$1 billion, a fraction of world markets.

The AMF's plans include setting up a computerised data base that links the stock markets in member states in a bid to promote share-dealing.

The AMF said Arab banks had the capacity to boost regional bourses as their operations have sharply grown over the past two decades. From only \$46.7 billion in 1975, the banks' assets have jumped to nearly \$365 billion and their branches soared by more than 10 times to 7,836.

"Arab banks can play a crucial part in activating demand and supply in national stock markets... the investment funds they could establish will attract large funds as they create channels for Arab and foreign investors outside the region to invest in Arab bourses," it said.

## OPEC to miss out again on oil demand surge — IEA

LONDON (R) — World oil demand is set to surge again next year but the once-mighty OPEC oil producers' group will see most of the growth snatched by rival suppliers, the West's energy watchdog said.

In its monthly oil market report, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) said world oil demand in 1996 was set to grow by 2.3 per cent, or 1.6 million barrels per day (b/d), from 1995 to 71.3 million b/d.

But the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will not be able to cash in on the higher consumption. The IEA says output from prolific producers in the North Sea and other countries outside OPEC is expected to go up even faster than global demand.

It projects non-OPEC supplies will rise to 44 million b/d in 1996, up 1.8 million from this year following a 1.1 mil-

lion b/d rise on 1994.

Norwegian and British North Sea output rises are expected to lead the non-OPEC surge next year, supplying an extra 770,000 b/d from this year, the IEA estimates.

It also sees Australian output up 225,000 b/d, Mexico pumping an extra 120,000 b/d and Angola 100,000 b/d.

Increases of between 50-100,000 b/d are projected for the three largest non-OPEC Asian producers China, Malaysia and India and for Latin America's Brazil and Colombia.

Noticeable rises are also expected for Kazakhstan, the Congo, Oman, Italy and Yemen.

Only two countries — Russia seen down 70,000 b/d and the United States down 130,000 b/d — are expected to post appreciable output reductions.

Given the rising non-OPEC supplies, the IEA calculates the expected call from world markets for

OPEC crude next year is likely to run on average one million b/d below current output, estimated in October at 25.6 million.

OPEC ministers will meet on Nov. 21 in Vienna to decide on 1995 production levels.

The incentives include soft loans to exporters and a marketing campaign which will send up to 1,000 businessmen abroad. They follow a devaluation of the rupee, which was aimed at supporting the textile sector.

Information Minister Khalid Kharal predicted the measures would increase Pakistani exports by 25 to 35 per cent.

It will also provide a 25 per cent air freight subsidy on exports of carpets to South African, Central and South American markets.

The government had set a target of \$9.5 billion in exports at the start of the fiscal year in July but exports have dropped by 29 per cent over

## Pakistan unveils new steps to boost exports

ISLAMABAD (AFP) —

With its carpet industry hurt by child labour charges and exports falling at an alarming rate, the Pakistani government has unveiled new incentives to help exporters increase business and counteract "negative propaganda."

The government will also launch a "massive marketing campaign", sending up to 1,000 business people abroad to help introduce Pakistani products.

Half of their travel expenses would be paid by the state.

The government will also provide a 25 per cent air freight subsidy on exports of carpets to South African, Central and South American markets.

The country's carpet trade was hurt following the death in April of 12-year-old Iqbal Masih, who won acclaim for his crusade against bonded

child labour.

Mash was gunned down on Easter Sunday in his village near Lahore. The Lahore-based Labour Liberation Front, a private organisation, blamed the murder on "carpet mafia", while police and his close relatives said the boy was shot by a drug addict.

The murder led to cancellation of orders of Pakistani carpets worth millions of dollars by several European importers. The Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association blamed the "vandalism" on Pakistan's traditional enemy, India.

The package follows a downward revision of the rupee-dollar parity to keep Pakistani products "competitive" in the international markets.

Officials said the adjustment was unavoidable following similar steps taken by its competitors, particularly India, which had devalued its rupee by 14 per cent.

The move has been hailed by traders in the textile sector, which accounts for more than 60 per cent of the country's total exports.

However, as the dollar went up, selling now at 34.25 rupees, the government increased gas prices by seven per cent, triggering an outcry across the country.

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## Jordanian stocks plunge

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian stocks took a plunge this week on quick selling as a result of fears of uncertainty stemming the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, brokers said Friday.

"Any political development in the entire Middle East region immediately reflects on the Jordanian stock market since there is no escape for Jordan from the repercussions of events in the

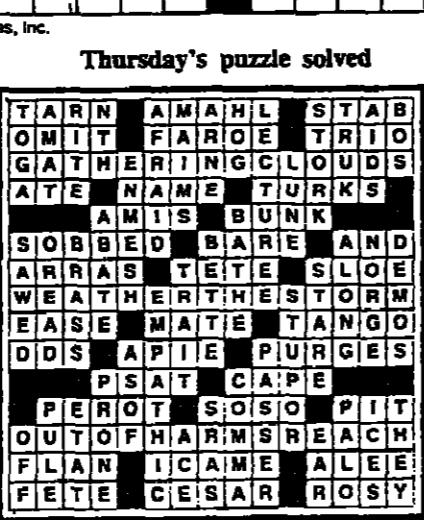
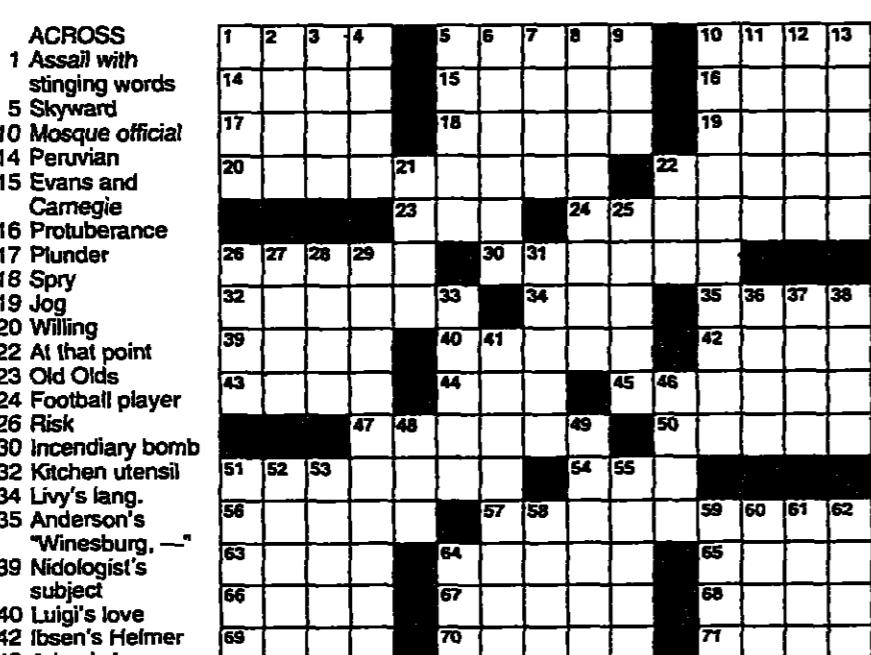
region, particularly those affecting the Palestinians," said a broker.

"There may not be a direct connection, but Rabin's assassination was seen to have a major impact on the Israeli-Palestinian track of peace talks, and this in turn affect Jordan," said the broker, who, like other Amman Financial Market (AFM) dealers, cannot be identified by name under standing market guidelines.

The weekly AFM for the week ending Thursday was 4.6 million dinars, up nearly

(Continued on page 9)

### THE Daily Crossword by Gregory E. Paul



Glasberg

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"I hypnotized you so you're unable to see me before I've done my hair and makeup!"

Print answer here: A

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's

Jumbles:

GLOAT MOUND APATHY SMOKE

They called the talkative mechanic this —

A MOTOR MOUTH

# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1995 9

## AFM price index drops

(Continued from page 8)

the services sector with 1.3 million dinars, or 28.2 per cent, and insurance stocks with 30,000 dinars, the report said.

The official AFM share price index based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in the market closed at 156.8 points, down two points or 1.3 per cent from the week's opening of

the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which highlighted international interest in investing in Jordan and elsewhere in the region.

"But after one day's trading the death of Rabin on Saturday stuck and scrambled everything," said a dealer. "Some investors panicked and got rid of their holdings, expecting a sharp plunge in prices. That accounts for the jump in turnover and the decline in prices."

AFM dealers said the market was gearing up to take advantage of what is widely seen here as the success of

158.8 points.

Industrials lost 1.3 per cent during the week, banks and financial institutions 1.3 per cent, services sector shares 1.3 per cent and insurance stock 0.5 per cent, the AFM report showed.

AFM dealers said the market was gearing up to take advantage of what is widely seen here as the success of

the week's opening of

AMERICAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - GENEVA - BEIRUT  
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JORDANIAN MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (04/11/1995 - 08/11/1995)  
WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME TRADING VOLUME PREV. OPENING CLOSING PRICE PRICE

ABRAHAM BANK 197,956 2,631,749 2,631,749 249,000

JORDAN NATIONAL BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,410

GULF ARABIAN BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,390

BANK OF JORDAN 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,380

MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,370

THE HORIZON BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,360

JOORDANIAN INDUSTRIAL BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,350

JOORDANIA BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,340

JOORDAN ISLAMIC BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,330

UNION BANK FOR BUILDING & INVESTMENT 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,320

BUSINESS BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,310

JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,300

BEST BANK FOR BUILDING & INVESTMENT 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,290

JOORDAN MAMLUK BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,280

ANAS BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK 200,510 1,400 1,400 4,270

GRAND TOTAL 1,621,933 INDEX NUMBER: 159.84

CHANGE: + 1.38%

ABRAHAM LIFE INSURANCE 6,625 1,890 1,890 1,890

ABRAHAM LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE 6,625 1,890 1,890 1,890

AS-SIR AL-RASTI INSURANCE 20,710 2,580 2,580 4,000

INSURANCE SECTOR 37,015 INDEX NUMBER: 129.03

CHANGE: + 0.31%

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER 20,792 1,450 1,450 1,640

JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY 20,792 8,800 8,800 9,000

JORDAN RAILWAYS 20,792 1,450 1,450 1,450

JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS 42,119 5,750 5,750 5,700

NATIONAL PETROGAS REFINERIES 2,040 2,600 2,600 2,590

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT 6,599 2,030 2,030 1,950

JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER 1,103 1,050 1,050 1,050

JORDAN FREE FOUNDATION / ALRA'S 3,283 9,770 9,770 9,750

UNITED KINGDOM HOTEL & CONVENTION HOTELS 609 2,360 2,360 2,350

JOORDAN ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION 21,721 3,100 3,100 3,000

JOORDAN GENERAL TRADING & INVESTMENT HOLDING 3,150 1,250 1,250 1,250

KAMA PRIVATE INVESTMENT 35,099 1,310 1,310 1,260

UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP. 20,372 1,100 1,100 1,070

SERVICES SECTOR 114,6703 INDEX NUMBER: 124.17

CHANGE: + 1.34%

JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES 100 19,100 19,100 20,000

ATTORNEY CORPS. INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING 3,000 1,400 1,400 1,400

THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES 110,167 3,500 3,500 3,620

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES 9,124 3,000 3,000 3,000

JORDAN POTASH 8,400 5,050 5,050 4,950

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY 12,315 9,400 9,400 9,370

THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL 6,395 3,640 3,640 3,400

GRAND TOTAL 741,427

## Lebanon free zone opens

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has inaugurated a free trade zone in the Beirut port in another sign of Lebanon's multi-billion dollar post-war rehabilitation. The 24,000 square-metre zone will help Lebanon compete better with other free trade zones in the region and recover its pre-war status as a platform for Middle East trade, Mr. Hariri said Thursday. A free trade zone was set up in the Beirut port in 1993 but the area was devastated during the 1975-1990 civil war. Mr. Hariri inaugurated two of the six buildings that will constitute the free trade zone in the port, which is in full expansion as part of a \$14 billion post-war reconstruction drive. Lebanon plans on setting up free trade zones in other areas of the country.

Hariri said Thursday. A free trade zone was set up in the Beirut port in 1993 but the area was devastated during the 1975-1990 civil war. Mr. Hariri inaugurated two of the six buildings that will constitute the free trade zone in the port, which is in full expansion as part of a \$14 billion post-war reconstruction drive. Lebanon plans on setting up free trade zones in other areas of the country.

**BUSINESS DAILY BRIEFS**

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Prices of 78 products increased during 1994-95

★★ A STUDY by the Consumer Protection Society revealed that prices of 78 of 117 products have increased within one year. The average increase was 14.3 per cent for these products which included food, medicines, general supplies, fruits, fuel and transportation among other items. Prices of only nine products declined by an average of 13.5 per cent. According to the study, prices did not change for the remaining 30 products (and services) which included basic foodstuffs, some medicines, petroleum products, communication as well as telephone, water and electricity services.

The study pointed out that most vegetable merchants do not abide by the fixed prices mainly due to laxity of controls and manipulation of price and weight standards. The society saw many irregularities in the selling process and highlighted the need for classifying and grading the produce by farmers as a main step to improve the pricing system. The society also recommended abolishing the minimum price for selling produce as many traders do not abide by it (Al Ra'i).

Damascus opened in early 1996. The director, Falah Al Qudah, said the infrastructure at the joint free zone was exemplary compared to the rest of the free zones. He noted that the site was geographically unique and that cheap technical labour was an added advantage to the potential investors (Al Ra'i).

### Jordanians are second largest investors in Syria

★★ A SYRIAN economic bulletin recently said that Jordanians were the second largest investors in Syria after Saudis. Jordanians had investments in 23 projects, six of which had 100 per cent Jordanian equity. The Saudis had investments in 38 projects while Lebanese, ranking fourth, had investments in 17 projects (Al Dustour).

### National Industries sells \$1m worth of paper to Syria

★★ THE NATIONAL Industries Company has signed agreements with a number of Syrian manufacturers of sanitary paper to supply them with 800 tonnes of paper rolls valued at over \$1 million. The shipment of the raw material is expected before the end of this year. The National Industries Company has posted a mid-year profit of JD 312,000 after recording continued losses in the past. The director of the company, Samih Barakat, expects total sales to exceed JD 6 million this year. He said that the National Industries has reached an agreement with an Italian firm to supply a new production line to recycle used paper and, as a result, reduce cost by about 50 per cent (Al Aswag).

### Shipping company bought three vessels this year

★★ THE JORDAN National Shipping Lines bought three vessels this year. The vessel Tropicana was bought in an auction and was renamed Philadelphia. Used mainly to carry bulk material, it can transport loads weighing 34,000 tonnes. The other two vessels are Al Safi, able to carry 17,000 tonnes, and Al Urdon which can carry 15,000 tonnes. With these three vessels, the company has a fleet of five ships in addition to another two leased under a long-term deal. The vessels, mainly operating between Aqaba and Indian ports, are transporting Jordanian phosphate and potash (Al Ra'i).

### Qudah sees good future for Syrian-Jordanian Free Zone

★★ FIFTEEN INDUSTRIES have been set up at the Syrian-Jordanian Free Zone which has an area of 6,000 dunums, half of which is in the Syrian territory and the other half in Jordan. The director of Jordan's Free Zones Corporation expects higher demand from industrialists and investors to set up projects at the joint free zone next year when the are transporting Jordanian phosphate and potash (Al Ra'i).

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## Australian Grand Prix

### Hakkinen condition stable after crash

**ADELAIDE** (R) — Mika Hakkinen was in stable condition in hospital with a serious head injury on Friday afternoon after he crashed heavily in his McLaren during the opening qualifying for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

A statement from the medical staff treating the 27-year-old Finn after his estimated 175 kph (108 mph) collision at Malhouse bend said he was in the intensive care unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, under sedation and ventilation.

The statement, from the FIA medical delegate Sid Watkins and Dr. Brendon Kearney, the chief executive of the hospital, said this treatment was normal for the management of head injuries.

It added: "While the neurological situation will be unpredictable for the next few days, progress so far is satisfactory."

"Scans and X-ray investigations show no evidence of other serious injuries. There are no external head or facial injuries."

The announcement followed news from Goodyear,

which supplies all tyres used by all the teams in Formula One, that three left-rear tyres inspected by them had been found cut during the session.

The cars were driven by Pedro Lamy of Portugal, in a Minardi, Briton Johnny Herbert in a Benetton, and Hakkinen.

Goodyear officials said the cuts may have been caused by debris, kerbs or manhole cov-

ers on the 3.78-km (2.35-mile) tricky, fast and winding Adelaide street circuit.

Hakkinen lost control of his McLaren on entry to the high-speed corner. His car slid backwards, hit a kerb and then pirouetted through nearly 360 degrees before slamming into the barriers.

The corner, a fast right-hand bend between the Jones and Brabham straights, is the quickest on the track. It is believed that Hakkinen was travelling at about 175 kph when he hit the barriers, protected by only one wall of tyres.

The session was halted for 42 minutes. When it resumed, Briton Damon Hill in a Williams grabbed provisional pole position ahead of his teammate and fellow

Briton David Coulthard, Austrian Gerhard Berger in a Ferrari and newly-crowned double world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany in his Benetton.

Coulthard led the times for most of the session but Hill eclipsed his best time in the final two minutes. Hill's time was one minute and 15.505 seconds, at an average 180.223 kph (111.99 mph).

Hakkinen's accident was the worst in the spot this year. Japan's Ukyo Katayama escaped with only slight injuries after his Tyrrell careered over at the start of the Portuguese Grand Prix in September and Japan's Aguri Suzuki suffered a fractured rib in practice for the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka last month.

It looked as if something may have failed or a puncture of something."

Coulthard, qualifying in Adelaide for the first time, said: "It's a very tricky circuit. It is much more bumpy than I expected. It is a street circuit and that always means that if you have an off, you are in trouble."

Briton Johnny Herbert, driving a Benetton, also spun off during the session. Briton Mark Blundell in the second McLaren also came off at the same place as Hakkinen.

Austrian Gerhard Berger, speaking off Hakkinen's crash, said: "It looked as if he had a problem with the left rear of his car. The right front seemed to be off the ground at the start of his accident and he took off when he hit the kerb."

"It looked as if something may have failed or a puncture of something."

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### Greece to ask for 2008 Games with no contest

**ATHENS** (AFP) — Greece is to ask the International Olympic Committee to award Athens the 2008 Games without going through the bidding procedure.

Greek Sports Minister George Lianis told AFP on Thursday that Athens deserved the Games because of its historical contribution to the Olympic movement. A similar plea fell on deaf ears in 1989 in Tokyo when the IOC awarded the U.S. city of Atlanta the centenary Games of 1996.

However Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou told IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch on Thursday that Greece would enter the normal bidding procedure if its request for the 2008 Games to be awarded to the city outright was turned down by the IOC Executive Board at its meeting in Nagan, Japan, in December.

The daily newspaper also reported that the WBC had set up an ad hoc committee to look after the families of fighters who had died in the ring as well as former champions who have fallen on hard times and need help with medical and other bills.

The 31-member directors board had also on Thursday agreed that a WBC heavyweight champion Frank Bruno of Britain should make his first mandatory title defence against Mike Tyson instead of fellow Briton Lennox Lewis.

Athens lost a bitter campaign for the 1996 Games to Atlanta and did not bid for the 2000 Games, won by Sydney which squeezed out Beijing by only two votes.

China has not yet decided about the 2004 Games and Olympic sources believe it may decide to wait and bid for 2008.

Cape Town is the favourite to become the first African venue for the Olympics in 2004.

### Krajicek's 25 aces are to no avail

**STOCKHOLM** (R) — Dutchman Richard Krajicek's 25 aces were all to avail as he was beaten 7-6, 6-3 by unseeded Swede Mikael Tillstrom in the second round of the Stockholm Open on Thursday.

Tillstrom, whose career has been marred by injuries, countered the third-seeded Krajicek's power with a stream of classy lobs, returns and passing shots.

Top seed Jim Courier scored a clinical 6-4, 6-3 win over Australian Todd Woodbridge while second seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden routed Romania's Andrei Pavel 6-1, 6-3.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Inter sign Branco and Caio

**MILAN** (R) — Internazionale stole the spotlight as Italy's autumn transfer market closed on Thursday, signing striker Marco Branco from Roma after recruiting another forward, Caio, from Brazilian club Sao Paulo. But despite reports that the buys would be funded by the sale of Paul Ince, there was no indication the unsettled England midfielder's departure was imminent. Inter said they had signed Branco, who played for Parma last season, a two-year contract. The terms were not disclosed but the deal included Italy under-21 striker Marco Delvecchio moving to Roma on loan for a season. Earlier in the day Inter recruited 20-year-old Caio Ribeiro Deduccousa. No further details were available but the daily Gazzetta dello Sport quoted a sum of \$4.6 million for the deal. In other moves, Swedish international Klas Ingesson joined Italian club Bari from English premier league side Sheffield Wednesday in a £900,000 (\$1.42 million) deal.

#### Sri Lanka's top sprinter banned

**COLOMBO** (AP) — Sri Lanka's top sprinter has been banned from next month's South Asian Federation Games in India for allegedly using performance-enhancing drugs, an official said Friday. The Asian Amateur Athletic Association ordered Sri Lanka not to field Susanthika Jayasinghe, who was heavily favoured to win the 100 metres and 200 metres sprints, said association secretary Rohan Amarasinghe. The International Amateur Athletic Federation, the sport's world governing body, will meet next month in Monaco to discuss banning Jayasinghe from the sport. She is the first Sri Lankan sportsperson to have used a banned substance, he said.

#### Beijing to host World Cup swimming

**BEIJING** (AFP) — China will once again host a World Cup Swimming tournament next year, after having hastily pulled out of last year following a major doping scandal surrounding Chinese swimmers. The Beijing event, one leg of an eight-part short distance swimming world tour, will take place on January 10 and 11 at the complex where the 1990 Asian Games events were staged, China Daily said Friday. China will be fielding its top swimmers at the event, providing them with "valuable experience at this important pre-Olympic warmup," the daily said. China had staged the event in 1993 and 1994 but opted out of it in 1995 just weeks after 11 athletes, including seven swimmers tested positive for doping during the Hiroshima Asian Games.

#### Mancini will stay with Genoese club

**GENOA** (AP) — After threatening to leave Italian soccer following a animated on-field altercation, national team forward Roberto Mancini has agreed to stay with first-division club Sampdoria for the remainder of the season. "It's the best solution. I have strong ties with la Samp," the 30-year-old Mancini said in an interview with the Italian television network Rai broadcast Thursday. Mancini was in England Thursday with Sampdoria to play exhibition matches against Arsenal and Middlesbrough. Arsenal, which signed English national team captain David Platt from Sampdoria in the off-season, was said to be bidding for Mancini, who has been playing with the Genoese team since 1982.

#### Stoichkov donates \$100,000

**SOFIA** (AP) — Bulgarian national team forward Hristo Stoichkov, who plays for Parma of Italy, has donated \$100,000 to his country's capital city of Sofia, according to news reports. Stoichkov made the donation late at a fund-raising cocktail party, organised by Ventziy Yosifov, a banker who is running as an independent for mayor with the support of the governing socialists. The fund is aimed at helping develop Sofia and will be at the disposal of the next mayor. Yosifov pledged according to the daily 24 Chassa.

#### Samaranch rules out Beijing

**ATHENS** (AFP) — International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch has all but ruled out Beijing bidding to hold the 2004 Games. "The news we are getting for now is that they are not very optimistic," said Samaranch here Thursday. "I think in the end there will only be 10 candidates," he added. With Beijing out of the running Cape Town becomes strong favourite to win the 2004 Games and become the first African city to hold the Olympics. Bidding against them are Rome, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Istanbul, Seville, Lille, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and San Juan. Cities have until Jan. 10 to confirm their bids.

### Seles withdraws from season finale

**NEW YORK** (R) — The season-ending WTA Tour championships next week will feature a rematch of last year's final in the opening round after fifth seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina drew American Lindsay Davenport as her first opponent on Thursday.

Sabatini ended a lengthy title drought last November by beating Davenport in straight sets to claim the prestigious Virginia Slims Championships crown for the second time.

The draw for the re-named season finale was held at the Advanta Championships in Philadelphia — final tune-up for the 16-year event at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Three-time winner Monica Seles, who was to make her return to the championships after missing the last two years, pulled out earlier on Thursday, suffering from tendinitis in her left knee and an ankle sprain.

Seles, who rejoined the women's tour in August after more than two years away following her 1993 stabbing in Hamburg, was to receive a special wild card invitation into the draw.

Her absence enables the legitimate 16th place qualifier, according to WTA points standings, to claim the final berth.

That final qualifier, who will be top seed Steffi Graf's first-round opponent, will be South African Amanda Coetzer unless Irina Spirlea of Romania reaches the Philadelphia final. She has already advanced to the quarters.

Coetzer is one of only two players to beat world number one Graf this year. The German three-time champion avenged that Canadian Open defeat with a first-round victory over Coetzer en route to her U.S. Open title in September.

Spain's Conchita Martinez, bumped up to second seed with Seles' withdrawal, drew Croatian teenager Iva Majoli as her first opponent.

Third-seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, losing finalist to Graf in 1993, landed in the tougher half of the draw along with Graf and Sabatini. She will face Natasha Zvereva of Belarus in the first round.

Fourth-seeded Australian Open champion Mary Pierce of France, a semifinalist the past two years, drew a dangerous first-round opponent in German Anke Huber.

The other first-round pairings are: Sixth seed Kimiko Date of Japan v Czech veteran Jana Novotna; seventh seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria v Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands and eighth seed Mary Joe Fernandez v fellow American Chanda Rubin, who will be making her first appearance in the championships.

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### WBC meet issues safety guidelines

**BANGKOK** (R) — The World Boxing Council has introduced new safety measures and doubled the insurance cover for boxers appearing on a WBC world title card, a news release said.

The WBC's annual convention under way in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai on Thursday addressed key medical and safety issues following recent deaths in the ring, according to a release seen here on Friday.

The WBC's medical investigation strongly suggests that extreme weight loss during training for a fight and the accompanying dehydration are prime factors in ring fatalities.

The WBC has decided that strict guidelines for limiting the amount of weight a fighter will be allowed to lose will be drawn and implemented," it said, adding that these would be monitored in all world, interna-

tional and Americas title bouts.

The WBC said another prime factor in fatal accidents was the presence of a family member, particularly fathers, in a boxer's corner as "it appears that the emotional issues involved adversely affect their judgement as cornermen."

The convention, gathering around 300 members from around the world, confirmed its 15-year-old rule that bars immediate relatives from working in the corners. But it said they could take part from the floor as fourth cornermen.

The council directors also decided on Thursday that the \$100,000 medical and life insurance policy provided for every boxer appearing on a WBC world title card would be increased to \$200,000 effective immediately.

The statement said "a new and much more effective mouthpiece" had been under

group if they beat Ukraine in Bari on Saturday and overcome Lithuania in Reggio Emilia on Wednesday.

Finishing second in the group leaves three times world champions Italy a hostage to arithmetic.

Sacchi, ever cautious despite celebrating his fourth anniversary as coach on Monday, has warned his players neither opponent is the pushover many might suppose.

"With six points we can win the group, with four we should qualify. One defeat and we're out," he said.

A knee injury to Juventus midfielder Angelo Di Livio has forced the coach to change his initial line-up.

"So I'm calling for prudence and concentration because Ukraine and Lithuania do not belong to the third tier of teams, those that you beat even playing badly."

"They are in the second tier, that of less well known teams who are capable of causing an upset."

Sacchi said Ukraine, home of Dynamo Kiev, were sure to be tougher opponents than international novices Lithuania.

"They look a bit wooden but they are evolving. If they try and attack it will be a good game," he said.

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**China on track for Atlanta**

BEIJING (AFP) — With a tougher anti-drug programme in place and renewed performances from its swimmers and runners, China appears to be back on track for next year's Atlanta Olympics.

China's Olympic campaign was launched at the Inter-City Games in Nanking at the end of October. A multi-sport competition that brought together 3,300 athletes from 49 teams.

The Chinese hoped the Games would help erase the memory of the mediocre results achieved by Chinese athletes in 1993, which were blemished by positive dope tests, and help it present a clean image in Atlanta.

China's image has been badly tarnished by drug scandals, particularly the 11 athletes, including seven world-class swimmers, who failed tests at last year's Asian Games in Japan.

In August, the National People's Congress unanimously adopted a law that ordered additional testing during and outside competition and provided tougher punishments for failed tests.

China carried out more than 300 random tests for the first time at the Inter-City Games. Tests had previously only been carried out on winners. Results will be available at the end of November.

Sports authorities also announced in Nanking that all members of a team would be banned for a year if two individual team members tested positive.

The ban would be extended to 1997 if four athletes from the same club were caught using banned drugs.

Swimming and athletics were the particular targets of the new policies.

Chinese female swimmers shone at the 1994 World Championships, winning 12 of 16 titles and setting five world records, but the positive tests at the Asian Games threw the sport into turmoil.

Only a few Chinese swimmers were allowed to compete abroad in 1995, leaving uncertainty about China's Olympic prospects.

But the respectable times turned in by Chinese female swimmers at the Inter-City Games brought back memories of the world championships.

"After a year of silence, China can finally see light again," said national team director Lin Senlin.

That opinion was shared by women's coach Chen Yunpeng, who said world champions Jingyi, He Chong, Liu Limin and China's other top female swimmers will show up in Atlanta ready to perform.

Chinese athletics also underwent a resurrection in Nanjing after a mediocre 1993 season, including a disastrous showing at last summer's world championships.

Wang Junxia, world-record holder in the 3,000 and 10,000 metres, reconciled with her former coach, Ma Junren, who will train his talented band of runners on the high plateaus of Yunnan province this winter.

Ma also launched a new group of young and talented runners in Nanjing, including Jiang Bo who beat Wang in the 5,000 metres.

**Rosset advances to Moscow quarters**

MOSCOW (AP) — Marc Rosset, bidding for his third Kremlin Cup title in four years, breezed into the quarterfinals Thursday with a 6-4, 6-3 win over unseeded Jan Kroslik.

The 2.01-metre (6-foot-7) Swiss player used his big serve and power game to dispose of the Slovak easily. Ranked 11th in the world and the No. 3 seed in the \$1.125 million ATP tournament, Rosset faces a clear path to Sunday's final as the only remaining seed in his half of the draw.

Rosset showed no ill effects of a late night at a Moscow discotheque two nights earlier. He said he stayed out until 2 a.m. after his first-round victory Tuesday to celebrate his 26th birthday with Russian star Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the tournament's top seed.

The Swiss will not face Scott Draper, a fast-rising, young Australian who defeated Karol Kuera of Slovakia, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3).

In another second-round match, Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan, who stunned No. 2 seed Goran Ivanisevic in the opening round, was eliminated by Carl Uwe-Staub of Germany, 6-2, 6-7 (7-4), 6-3.

Andrei Olhovskiy, Kafelnikov's Davis Cup doubles partner, outlasted Marc Goellner of Germany, 6-4, 6-7 (10-8), 7-6 (7-5).

The tournament is being played in Moscow's indoor Olympic stadium, site of the Davis Cup final between Russia and the United States.

**Agassi pulls out of ATP Tour World Championship**

Andre Agassi

**Graf on track with Philadelphia win**

PHILADELPHIA (R) — After surviving a close call in her opening match, top seed Steffi Graf appears to have regained her form with an easy quarter-final victory over unseeded American Meredith McGrath at the Atlantic Championships on Thursday.

The world number one needed less than an hour to breeze to a 6-3, 6-2 win that put her into Saturday's semifinals.

The German star, who has

claimed three Grand Slam titles this year despite struggling through injuries and personal problems, never faced a break point against McGrath, who had upset eight seed Chanda Rubin in the second round.

"It was a very different match than the other day," said Graf, who pulled out a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 second-round win over American Amy Frazier Tuesday after a first-round bye.

"I've really had a long break this year while everyone else has been playing," said Graf, who came to Philadelphia having played just one match since her U.S. Open victory in early September.

"I'm used to having a lot of preparation for a tournament. I'm not used to long breaks," she continued. "I need to feel in shape and ready. I've been missing that all year long."

NEW YORK (R) — It was just another night with minor-league referees in a major-league game — frustrating, testy, but no worse than many another this young NBA season.

"We need to get our refs back," said the Indiana Pacers' well-travelled veteran Eddie Johnson, at 36 the oldest player on the court in Thursday's game with the New York Knicks.

"Everybody's arguing every call. That doesn't happen with the regular referees."

After all the shouting was over, the injury-depleted Pacers said their 103-95 loss to the Knicks was not the fault of the replacement referees, but they weren't happy about the situation.

The National Basketball Association locked out the union refs in a dispute over pay levels as they try to negotiate a new contract.

"It's frustrating to have officials coming off of supermarket jobs and refereeing our games," said Indiana sharpshooter Reggie Miller.

The first play of the game set the tone. New York centre Patrick Ewing was bumped while shooting and got no foul, then was called out of bounds while hopping in to retrieve the loose ball. Ewing gave a disbelieving stare at the ref, then dropped the ball not quite to his taste.

Plenty more such incidents followed.

Players from both sides

screaming frequently. There was plenty to critique. Compounding the problem is that only two referees are being used, not the normal three.

"If they had three of them it would be better," said Johnson. "Even with our own referees, two is tough."

If the Pacers would not blame their loss on the replacement refs, the turning point in the Knicks' only loss this season, to the visiting Phoenix Suns Tuesday, was when Mason was ejected by officials struggling to maintain respect and control.

Thursday's game saw no outright fighting, but other games have seen some ugly incidents, and Johnson says the NBA had better reach a settlement with the union refs soon.

"I think the league ought to look at how frustrated everybody's getting," said Johnson. "An explosion is going to happen."

"We need the real refs," said Pacers point guard Mark Jackson. "There were bad calls, sometimes they didn't even know what to call. It's hurting the game and I don't know if the best team will win each night."

But Miller took a more philosophical slant, noting that at least it is early in the season when there's less at stake. "Both teams have to put up with this," said Miller. "It's going to be over to the league and it's better to get it over with in November."

Brown then produced the basketball and took a long hook shot from out of bounds that for a moment looked like it might go in. Who knows, these refs might have counted it.

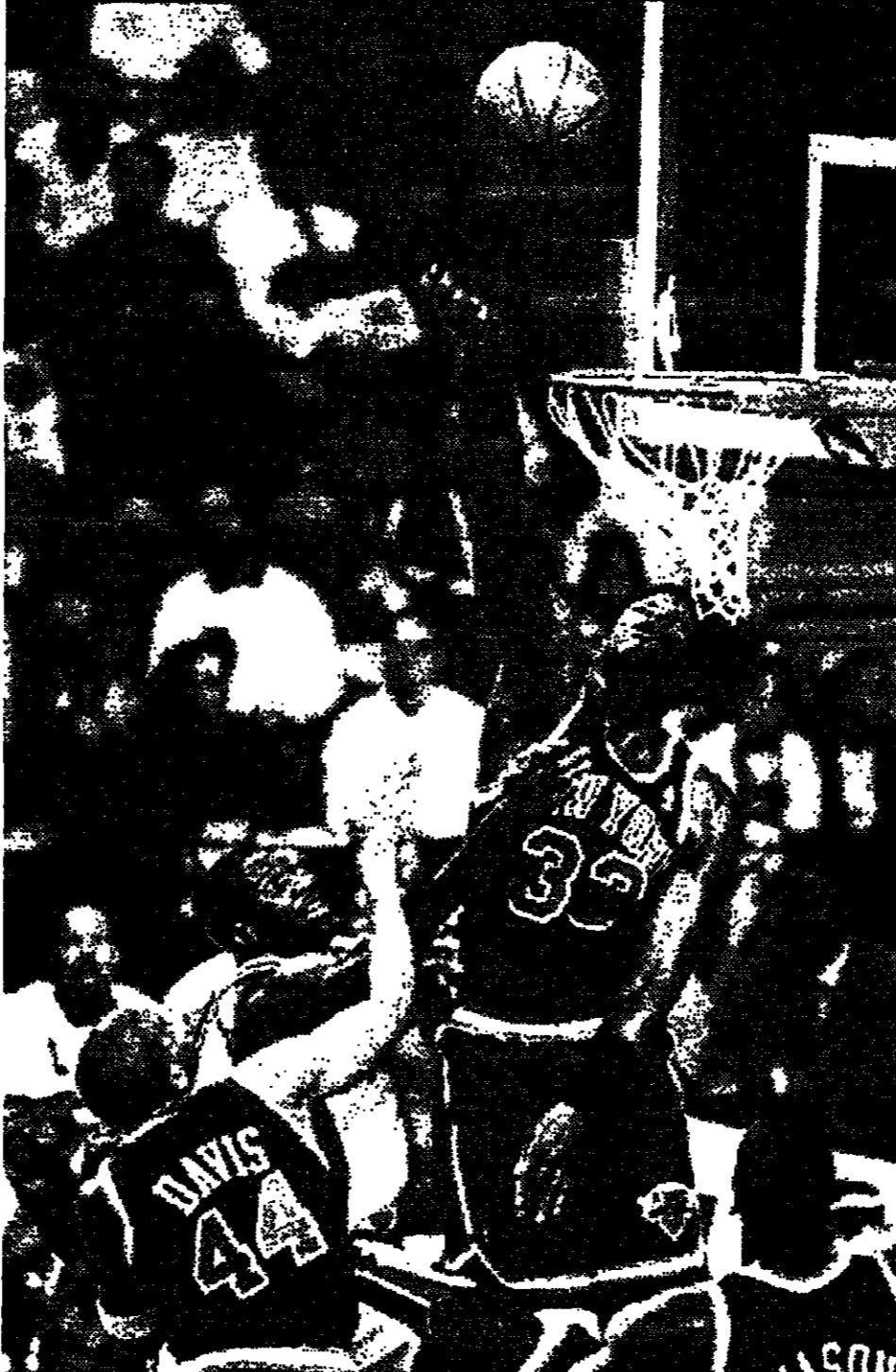
"Well, the hook shot humoured me," said Knicks coach Don Nelson. "I once got ejected and drop-kicked into the second balcony, so I know the feeling. The hook shot did me one better, he almost made it. I had to

get him out of the referee's hair."

Players from both sides — especially such notable talkers as John Starks and Anthony Mason of the Knicks and Miller of the Pacers — took turns explaining to the refs, with varying degrees of heat, how the game should be officiated. The Indiana bench was also up and

**NBA RESULTS**

	Chicago	106	Cleveland	88-
	New York	103	Indiana	95
	Dallas	104	Milwaukee	94
	Atlanta	125	Golden State	121



Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks blocks a shot by an opponent as the Knicks Hubert Davis (left) looks on (Reuters photo)

**Nomo is NL Rookie of the Year**

NEW YORK (R) — Japanese pitching sensation Hideo Nomo of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who led the National League in strikeouts, won the 1995 National League Rookie of the Year Award on Thursday.

Nomo, who joined the Dodgers this season after starring for five years in the Japanese League, received 18 first place votes and 118 total points in balloting by a 28-member panel of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones finished second in the voting, collecting the other 10 first place votes and 104 points. Nomo also had nine second place votes and one third place vote and Jones received 18 second place votes.

Nomo, who started the All-Star game for the National League and became a sensation back home for his stellar play in the United States, is the fourth consecutive member of the Dodgers to be named N.L. Rookie of the Year.

He follows Eric Karros (1992), Mike Piazza (1993) and Raul Mondesi (1994). The Dodgers also had four consecutive winners from 1979 through 1980 when Rick Stutcliffe, Steve Howe, Fernando Valenzuela and Steve Sax earned top rookie honours.

Nomo's selection gives the Dodgers 15 Rookie of the Year awards — more than twice any other club — since Jackie Robinson of Brooklyn won the first one in 1947.

The performance of the 26-year-old Nomo was one of big stories of the 1995 season as he confounded Major League batters with his unorthodox pitching style.

Nomo posted a 13-6 record with a league-best 236 strikeouts and an earned run average of 2.54 — second best in the league.

The right-hander also surrendered just 124 hits in 191 innings for a league-best .182 opponents batting average.

There had been some debate as to whether Nomo should be considered for the rookie honour after five years of playing professionally with Kintetsu of the Japanese League. But he was deemed eligible under the rules of the award.

Jones, who was a key figure in Atlanta's World Series victory, was eligible because he missed the entire 1994 season with major knee surgery. Jones batted .265 with 23 home runs and 86 RBI this season.

Florida Marlins second baseman Quilvio Veras, who batted .261 and led the league in stolen bases with 56, received one second place vote and 11 third place votes to finish a distant third in the balloting with 14 points.

New York Mets pitcher Jason Isringhausen, St. Louis first baseman-outfielder John Mabry and Montreal pitcher Carlos Perez tied for fourth with four points each.

Minnesota Twins outfielder Marty Crodova narrowly edged California Angels outfielder Garret Anderson Wednesday for the 1995 American League Rookie of the Year award.

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## Arafat visits Rabin home in Tel Aviv to pay his respects

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat, a figure still distrusted by most Israelis, has paid a first visit to the heart of Israel as Palestinian leader to convey his condolences to slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's widow.

On Friday, Israeli woke up to find Mr. Arafat without his traditional head-dress shown on the front page of newspapers alongside Rabin, drinking coffee against a background of flowers.

The Palestinian leader, restricted to watching Mr. Rabin's funeral on television, hailed his late peace partner as "a courageous man" after being ferried in by helicopter Thursday night for his first visit to the Jewish state since 1967.

"The guy is sitting without the keffiyeh, the symbol of struggle," noted government spokesman Uri Dromi. "He's just a regular guy without too much hair on his head, paying condolences."

"In Israel, nobody can remain indifferent to that," he told AFP.

"I think Israelis will take this visit as a most human gesture — the whole event reminded us we are all human beings... although even Yitzhak Rabin had mixed feelings about Arafat."

The veteran Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader informed reporters on his return to the Gaza Strip that he flew in to Israel aboard a helicopter to speak with the widow in her home near Tel Aviv.

It was his first visit to the Jewish state since 1967, when he slipped secretly into Israel to organise cells for his Fatah faction.

## Croatia troops reportedly move to Eastern Slavonia

ZAGREB (AFP) — Some 350 elite Croatian troops have advanced to the edge of a buffer zone in eastern Slavonia separating them from secessionist Serb forces, stepping up pressure on the last Serb-held area in the country, a U.N. source said Friday.

"It's a small build-up, not very large in size," said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said the soldiers are part of the Croatian army's Zagreb-based "Tiger Brigade" and had brought in heavy artillery and pontoon bridges. Two rivers cut through Eastern Slavonia which was captured by the Serbs in 1991.

"It's a message to the Serbs to put pressure on them," he said.

Earlier, another U.N. source reported a buildup of troops in recent days in Vinkovci and Nustar on the edge of the Serb-held areas.

The source said the movement did not constitute an offensive and that no fighting had been detected.

A spokesman for the Croatian Defence Ministry did not confirm the troop movement but said the Croatian army had the right to deploy "where it wants." Croatia is a free country."

U.N. spokesman Douglas Coffman, stationed at Erdut in the Serb-held sector, said no troop movement was reported Friday.

"There is always some level of tension but it's relatively quiet or calm," he said.

## Egyptian militants claim another attack on train

CAIRO (AFP) — The main Egyptian militant group Gamaa Al Islamiyah claimed on Friday a second attack against a train in southern Egypt, which injured three persons, including two tourists.

"A day after the Luxor operation, the mujahideen have made a second attack against a train carrying tourists... injuring at least two European tourists," according to a statement received by a Western news agency in Cairo.

"On Wednesday, the Gamaa said it ambushed a train travelling Tuesday from Luxor to Cairo, wounding 11 Egyptians, and described it as a "tourist target." It was the first such operation since April.

In the second attack on a train in the same region, which occurred on Wednesday, two foreign tourists — a French woman and a Dutch



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (left), on his first visit to Israel as leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, pays a condolence visit to Leah Rabin, widow of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv late Thursday. In the centre is Yossi Ginosar, a former official of the Israeli security service, Shin Bet, who arranged the visit (AFP photo)

## Support for Netanyahu drops after Rabin death

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The popularity of Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu has taken a nose-dive in the polls after the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish fanatic, a survey showed Friday.

Despite the watershed PLO-Israeli agreement on Palestinian autonomy signed in 1993, Mr. Arafat has never been invited to Israel. The Palestinian National Authority he heads was represented at Mr. Rabin's funeral by four ministers.

Mr. Arafat was accompanied to Ramat Aviv by Ahmad Qouriea, his economy minister, and Mahmoud Abbas of the PLO Executive Committee.

The visit was arranged in Israel by Yossi Ginosar, a former official in the country's domestic intelligence agency Shin Bet, according to Israeli radio.

The trip was shrouded in secrecy and took place under heavy security. It was only revealed to the press once it had been successfully carried out.

It was the first such poll since Mr. Rabin's assassination at a Tel Aviv peace rally last Saturday, and showed Mr. Netanyahu's support had fallen in the polls by 18 per cent compared with a similar survey by the same institute in August.

But Likud was swift to dismiss the poll, saying it was a sympathy vote for the ruling Labour Party following the loss of their leader, and support would pick up in the coming months.

According to the poll published in the *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper, 54 per cent would vote for acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres of the ruling Labour Party against 23 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu.

Previously Mr. Rabin and Mr. Netanyahu had been running neck-and-neck.

Israelis are to directly elect their prime minister for the first time in next November's general elections, and Mr. Peres has so far avoided going to the country early following the assassination.

The left has accused the right, notably Mr. Netanyahu, of inciting murder with its violent attacks on Mr. Rabin's peace policies.

Mr. Rabin's widow Leah bitterly accused Mr. Netanyahu of feeding the climate of hate which led to her husband's death.

It would win only 60 out of 120 seats, with Likud and the

## French nun shot dead, another hurt in Algeria

PARIS (R) — A French nun was shot and killed and a second was seriously wounded in a coma in Algiers on Friday. Algerian security forces said.

They said two gunmen killed Odette Helene Prevaut, 63, and wounded Chantal Marie-Odette Galich, 53, as they were leaving their home at the Kouba district of the capital around 0850 local time (0750 GMT).

The Algerian security forces, in a statement carried by the Algerian news agency APS, said sister Galich was transported to the military hospital of Ain Naadja.

A spokeswoman for the French Bishops' Conference in Paris said the attack took place as the two nuns took a walk through the hilly Kouba district.

Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Milosevic earlier this month agreed at the Dayton talks to work personally for a peaceful solution to the dispute over the region but so far the rebel Serbs have shown little inclination to leave.

The nuns belonged to the Order of the Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

The order was founded early this century by Charles-Eugene de Foucauld, a former army officer who became a missionary and was himself assassinated by Algerian rebels in his Sahara desert retreat near Tamanrasset in 1916.

The nun's killing took to 30 the number of French nation-

als murdered in Algeria by suspected Muslim fundamentalists since the cancellation of 1992 elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The French foreign ministry said it was "deeply shocked and stunned by this indescribable and barbarous act" and condemned those responsible.

"We note that the security of French people in Algeria is the responsibility of the Algerian authorities," spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt told reporters at a ministry briefing.

Mr. Rummelhardt also renewed appeals to French citizens residing in Algeria to return to France if possible and told its citizens residing elsewhere to stay away from Algiers.

Officials later said privately they intended the latter warning for French journalists contemplating travelling to Algiers to cover the Nov. 16 presidential elections, saying their safety could not be assured.

The ministry said the French ambassador in Algeria would promptly open an investigation to try to determine who was responsible for the attack on the two nuns.

## Arsenal at home shocks Rabin assassin's mother

TEL AVIV (R) — The weeping mother of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin said on Thursday she and her husband were shocked when police discovered enough explosives in their attic to blow the house sky-high.

"Shlomo and I stood there stunned, simply in shock. When I went upstairs... I asked [police] 'what are those bars of soap?' when they explained it to me, it took me perhaps an hour or two to digest what he left up there," Geula Amir said.

These attacks "prove the failure of the criminal operations led by the Egyptian regime against the mujahideen (fighters) in favour of the creation of Islamic state in Egypt," he said they answered.

Police said they seized enough weapons and explosives in confessed assassin Yigal Amir's family home in

Givatayim.

He caused.

"If there had been any sort of fire, the entire house could have been blown sky-high," he said they answered.

The White House did not comment on Thursday's meeting, which appeared on Mr. Clinton's public appointment schedule, except to de-

## Family squabble behind bomb hoax on RJ flight

By Lima Nabil  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner made an emergency landing on Thursday at Iceland's Keflavik airport after receiving a bomb threat and proceeded to Chicago after a search found no bomb aboard the plane.

The Lockheed Tristar was en route from Amsterdam to Chicago with 324 passengers on board when the bomb threat was made. More than 200 rescue workers were at Keflavik airport when the plane landed at 18:25 GMT.

The passengers were evacuated immediately and taken to the airport terminal. Bomb disposal experts searched the plane, but no suspicious objects were found.

Asked to comment on the incident, RJ's Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Public Relations Munib Touqan said the investigation found that an American woman of Jordanian origin who wanted to delay the arrival of her mother-in-law in Chicago gave the false information.

## Jordan in touch with Iraq and Israel over detainees

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said on Thursday it is suing the U.S. government for \$1.9 million on behalf of an American citizen of Jordanian descent who was wrongly detained as a suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing.

Immediately after the deadly April 19 bombing of the federal building, which claimed 168 lives, federal investigators focused on suspects of Middle Eastern origin.

Reports from Israel say that around 40 Jordanians are being detained in Israel after they infiltrated the borders with the West Bank in the last decade.

The official source said that Iraq recently provided Jordan with a list of 57 prisoners held in the notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

"We believe that 21 were released in the last pardon decreed by President Saddam

In the summer. The source said, however, that the Ministry of Interior estimates that over 700 Jordanians are in Iraqi jails."

"This (number) is not a signal of worsening relations (with Iraq)," the source said. "The Iraqis have never cooperated in giving information on prisoners" in Iraq jails.

A recent report in the Al Ra'i daily quoted the Nazareth-based Friends of the Prisoner Society as saying that 40 Jordanians were held in two Israeli jails in "very bad and harsh conditions."

The society said most of the Jordanian prisoners were held at Ashkelon prison and the rest at Atleit and that they are not allowed to mix with Palestinian inmates.

## Dane renews NATO bid after Lubbers quits race

PARIS (AFP) — Former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen is to visit Paris Monday, for talks which could be crucial in the race for NATO chief as the only other candidate, ex-Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers, has withdrawn.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, whose visit was scheduled before Mr. Lubbers announced Friday that he was pulling out, is expected to press his candidacy for NATO secretary-general with French leaders who until now have clearly opposed him.

Until Friday, Mr. Lubbers was the clear favourite for the job. His withdrawal due to U.S. opposition leaves Ellemann-Jensen as the most serious alternative.

Paris has until now made it clear it opposes the Dane's candidacy for three reasons: in particular it believes the new NATO head should come from a member of the Western European Union, which Denmark does not.

It has also stressed the need for whoever takes over the alliance to have fluent French, which Mr. Ellemann-Jensen does not. Paris is also believed to be infuriated by Denmark's high-profile campaign in French nuclear tests.

Foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt confirmed Friday that Mr. Ellemann-Jensen will hold talks with Foreign Minister Herve de Charette on Monday.

He said the Dane "had asked to be received," adding: "It is courteous to receive him." Speaking shortly before the announcement in the Hague of Mr. Lubbers' withdrawal, he said the Dutchman appeared to be "a very good candidate."

## Arab-Americans lobby Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton told a private meeting of Arab Americans he is interested in getting humanitarian aid to Iraq civilians if it would not offend the government of Saddam Hussein.

Another condition would be that private humanitarian aid to shortage-plagued Iraq not undermine compliance with U.N. Security Council embargo resolutions, said James Zogby, reporting on an hour-long White House meeting late Thursday.

Dr. Zogby quoted Mr. Clinton as being willing "to take another look" at ending the ban on U.S. travel to Lebanon, where many Arab American families originated.

On U.S. domestic issues, Mr. Clinton shared the delegation's concern that welfare reform not penalise "defenceless groups" such as legal immigrants, Dr. Zogby said.

The delegation voiced concern that the principle that in America "no senior citizen should be without health care, no child goes hungry."

She suggested that decentralisation would undermine the principle that in America "no senior citizen should be without health care, no child goes hungry."

A large majority of the estimated 2.5 million Arab Americans are Christian, Dr. Zogby said, while the Arab World as a whole is predominantly Muslim.

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## Column 8

Chilean soprano suspected of murder, attempting suicide

BERLIN (AP) — Chilean soprano Gabriela Lehmann, found wandering the streets with slashed wrists after allegedly stabbing to death her landlady last month, remains unable to submit to interrogation, a diplomat said. Ms. Lehmann, 39, was studying German at the Goethe Institute and had rented a room several months ago from Elisabeth Werner, 51. According to newspaper reports, the two had bitter disputes lately. Ms. Werner, a social worker, was found dead in her apartment in west Berlin's Tempelhof district on the night of Oct. 25 after colleagues reported she had not come to work. Police immediately began searching for Ms. Lehmann and gave her picture to the news media. Passersby found the Chilean, whose credits include performances at the National Theatre in Santiago, in the early morning hours of Oct. 26 in a neighbouring district. She was disoriented and had deep cuts on her wrists. Ms. Lehmann was taken to a hospital, where staff recognised her from newspaper photographs and called police. "It is assumed, from the condition the woman was found in, that she was the murderer," said Ruediger Reiff, a Berlin Justice Ministry spokesman. He said he did not have details on how Ms. Werner was killed, other than that she was stabbed to death. A judge ordered Ms. Lehmann held on suspicion of murder on Oct. 27 and she has been confined since Nov. 3 to a psychiatric hospital.

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